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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

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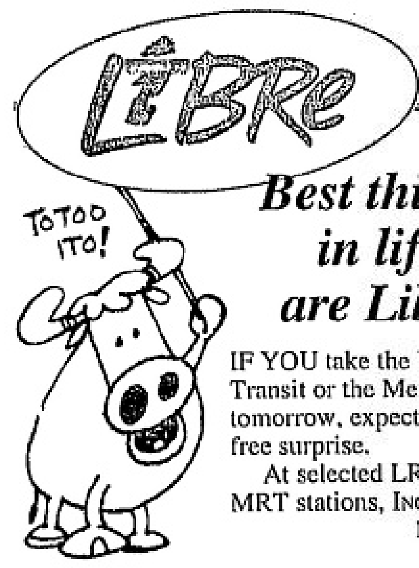
₱15

10 'Pentagon' kidnappers slain

STORY ON PAGE A2



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BEST/ A16

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Taliban chief flees

In exchange for safe passage, Omar Mullah turns over Kandahar

KABUL—The Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar is all set to flee his southern stronghold of Kandahar in what would be a major setback for the Islamic militia, according to the Afghan Islamic Press.

The report came as a Taliban official on Saturday confirmed that Mohammed Atef, the military chief of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, was killed along with seven colleagues in a US bombing raid three days ago.

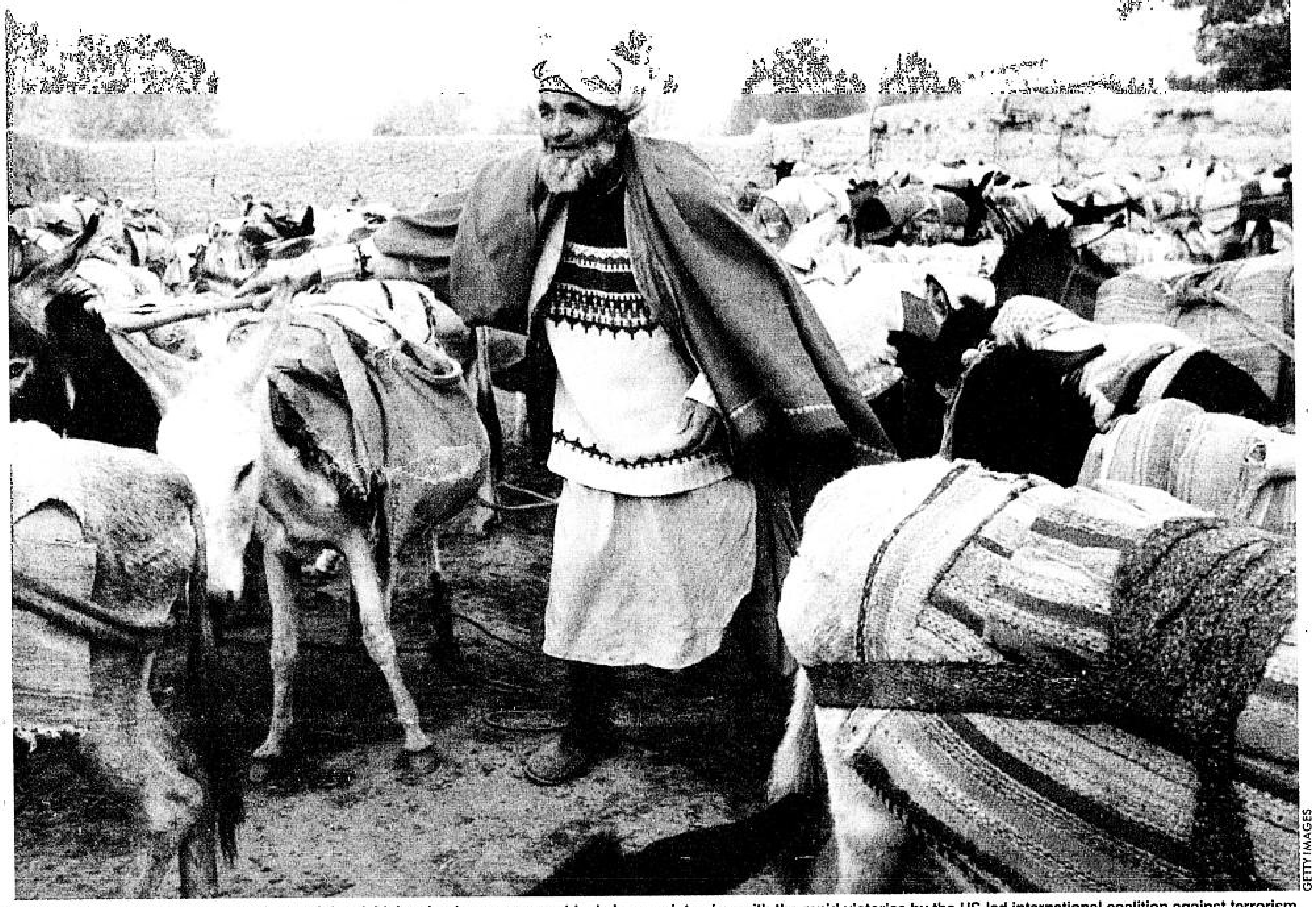
The Afghan Islamic Press, which has good contacts with the Taliban, reported Friday night that Omar had agreed to leave the city within 24 hours and would head for the mountains, turning Kandahar over to local leaders from Pashtun tribes, the ethnic kin to the Taliban leaders.

The South Asian Dispatch Agency also reported that Taliban official Mohammed Jamal had confirmed the Islamic militia's decision to leave Kandahar, saying "we have been asked to regroup to prepare for the next phase of holy war."

The Afghan Islamic Press reported that a deal reached between Omar and tribal leaders would cede control of the city to Mullah Naqibullah and Haji Basher, two former Afghan commanders in the war against Soviet invaders.

The move would allow the Taliban to give up control of the

TALIBAN/ A17


GETTY IMAGES

PASTORAL scene—a merchant preparing his donkey caravan—once a distant dream in the violated Afghan landscape now suddenly hooves into view with the rapid victories by the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

Gloria to UN: Help poor to lick terrorism

REUTERS

"I PRAYED that those who perished are now in God's company," President Macapagal says after touring Ground Zero with NY Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

By JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—Drawing on her own recent experience fighting Abu Sayyaf terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden, President Macapagal-Arroyo in an address at the United Nations urged rich nations to help eliminate poverty so terrorists cannot find a haven in poor countries.

"It is this growing disparity between the ever fewer richer and ever more poor that has given terrorism the freedom of movement and impunity from accountability that it has enjoyed," Ms Macapagal said in her address to the 56th General Assembly last Friday.

The Philippines did not need to join the war against terrorism as it was already at war in Mindanao, Ms Macapagal said in her speech to a sparsely attended General Assembly session.

Even as she spoke, snipers manned rooftops and sand-filled sanitation department trucks barricaded several blocks of New York's First Avenue as part of the security measures for the UN.

"The Philippines could not have done otherwise than renew her commitment to fight in a wider field in the wake of Sept. 11," Ms Macapagal said.

Though her government was negotiating with secessionists, she vowed that it would not tolerate terrorists.

"We know the enemy and we know these are not people you talk to, these are people you fight," she said, referring to the Abu Sayyaf which claim to be Muslim independence fighters but which her government dismisses as bandits.

She said the fight was between tolerance and bigotry, between reason and fanaticism, between law and anarchy and between justice and murder pretending to be just.

"I don't know if the future belongs to our side, but I am convinced that there will be no future if our side does not prevail in this fight," the President said.

After a talk with UN Secretary General Kofi Anan, she told reporters she had reiterated an earlier offer to send troops to Afghanistan as part of a United Nations peacekeeping force while an interim government is being formed.

Later that day, Ms Macapagal mourned the 4,500 killed in the Sept. 11 attack during a visit to Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade

GLORIA/ A16

Accord allowing US access to RP bases in the works

By NORMAN BORDADORA, TONETTE OREJAS AND DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld are expected to discuss the details of a proposed hardware-for-access agreement at a meeting this week, a senior official of the US Department of State said Friday night.

James Kelley, US assistant secretary of state for Asia-Pacific affairs, confirmed in a teleconference with the media at the US Embassy that Philippine defense officials and the Pentagon had been working on the details of the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA).

But sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs said the MLSA would virtually restore for the US government its rights to maintain military bases and troops here.

ACCORD/ A16

Man who brought 3 hostages to safety is Sabaya's best pal

By ARLYN DELA CRUZ
Contributor

AN old friend of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya was instrumental in the Nov. 15 turnover to the military of three women hostages, but his name has not been officially mentioned in any of the press conferences at which they were presented.

Yet it was Alvin Siglos who received the women—Angelica Montealegre, Maria Fe Rosadeno and Sheila Tabunyag—from a relative of Sabaya's and brought them to the RMN-Radyo Agong station, from where the military was eventually contacted and informed.

Siglos' name became well known in the intelligence communities in Zamboanga and Basilan after it was monitored that Sabaya had been regularly in touch with him by satellite phone.

He explained the constant contact by saying that he and Sabaya grew up on Malamawi Island in Basilan, and that they had been best friends since their days at the Basilan National High School.

He called Sabaya "Dams," a nickname for Aldam Tilao.

Siglos said he received a call from a female relative of Sabaya's around 6 a.m. Thursday.

The woman said the Dos Palmas hostages were in her house. She wanted to know what she should do next and to whom she should hand them.

He told her to escort them to his house in Tetuan, Zamboanga City. The woman, along with Montealegre, Rosadeno and Tabunyag, subsequently took the first commercial ferry out of Isabela, Basilan.

As he awaited their arrival, Siglos mulled over the problem:

To whom will he turn over the ex-hostages?

Siglos said he called this reporter at 7 a.m. but could not make contact. At the time of the call, this reporter was in

MAN/ A17

Young Muslims out to make it to ARMM on meritocracy

EDIL BADIRI, 25: Memory of "kids without clothes."

By SAMIRA ALI GUTOC
Contributor

THEY'RE young, techno-savvy, dynamic and they can't wait to break barriers.

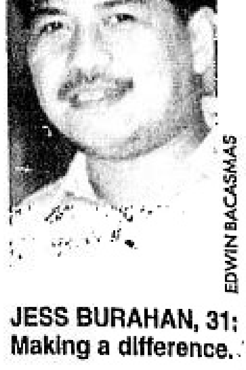
These mostly 20-something refuse to be tagged politicians but they are hell bent in introducing political reforms in "warlandia."

Muslim leadership is seeing changes, especially in the scheduled Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Regional elections on Nov. 26.

A sizable percentage of those running for the ARMM polls are new faces, and surprisingly some without political lineage to their name.

A model politician in a model town has set

YOUNG/ A16


EDWIN BACASMAS

JESS BURAHAN, 31: Making a difference.

DAPAT MAPUKSA NA ANG MGA KILABOT NA YAN!

'It's our greatest Christmas gift ever'

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"It's the greatest Christmas gift we ever had," said a tearful sister of Maria Fe Rosadeño who was rescued from her Abu Sayyaf captors last Thursday.

Rosemarie said they had been expecting that her sister would be released or rescued before Christmas because the family had been praying very hard for it.

"We always believed that she would come back to us," she said in Filipino.

When Maria Fe comes home, it is going to be a celebration, Rosemarie said.

Maria Fe is still in Manila with the six other hostages freed last Thursday and presented to the media in Malacañang last Friday.

Rosemarie said Ma. Fe may be staying at the family home in Brooke's Point town, about 150 km from here, to give her more time to think and relax.

The kidnapping has affected not only Maria Fe's life but also the whole family's, she said.

For six months since Maria Fe was seized with 19 others from the Dos Palmas resort on May 27, her parents have been under grave emotional pressure.

Their long ailing father's health has deteriorated.

Despite financial constraints, their mother has been going to Basilan for information on Maria Fe. She even tried to negotiate with the bandits.

Rosemarie said they used the P20,000 given by President Macapagal-Arroyo for her mother's transportation expenses.

The Rosadeño family, with the help of friends, raised funds for the ransom demanded by the kidnappers.

It was not clear if the ransom was paid.

Maria Fe used to stay with Rosemarie while still a student and before she got herself hired as a food attendant at the Dos Palmas in December 2000.

She met Guillermo Sobero, the American believed to have been beheaded by the bandits, at Dos Palmas in February.

After that meeting, Sobero and Maria Fe were in constant communication by e-mail.

They fell in love and got engaged when Sobero returned on May 25. He gave her two diamond rings.

Since they had met at Dos Palmas, the two agreed to spend Sobero's birthday on May 28 on the island.

Rosemarie said the family liked Sobero because he was a kind man.

Family members said he was "honest" for telling them that he had children and that he was working on his divorce from his estranged wife. He promised to marry Maria Fe after the divorce was granted. ***Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, with reports from Norman Bordadora, Metro Manila, and AFP***

10 Pentagon kidnap gang members slain

PIKIT, North Cotabato—Government troops killed at least 10 suspected members of the Pentagon gang believed to be responsible for the kidnapping of several Chinese and Filipinos, after very heavy fighting yesterday, the military said.

The fighting, which began before dawn in this town and is still raging, also left two soldiers wounded, said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguin-danao.

More than 20,000 people have fled into the town center here for fear of being caught in the fighting, civilian officials said.

Ando said the military launched air and ground assaults after a Pentagon member who was captured last Friday tipped the military off about the location of a "satellite group" of the Pentagon in Barangay Bulod here.

Ando said Tato Abdul, 22, a Barangay Bulod resident, told the military the kidnappers were in his village.

Rebels, not kidnappers

The spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front claimed, however, that it was MILF guerrillas that the soldiers had encountered.

"It was an MILF area, naturally there was resistance," Eid Kabalu said.

The MILF, the mainstream Moro insurgency, is negotiating peace with the government.

Ando said the military was not after the MILF.

"(But) if the kidnappers run and seek refuge in their (MILF) areas, the MILF should surrender them, otherwise the MILF will be involved in the firefight," Ando said.

He said the military would continue pursuing the kidnappers even if they fled into MILF-held areas.

Two of the wounded soldiers were identified as Cpl. Ramil Binoya and Cpl. Angelbert Celestia, both of 40th IB.

The Pentagon, believed to be made up of rogue MILF rebels, have been abducting people for ransom in the Central Mindanao provinces in recent months.

Chinese victims

They seized four Chinese working on a road and irrigation project in this province in two incidents in June and August. Two of the Chinese were later killed in a military rescue attempt, one escaped and the other was freed after the Libyan government interceded. The Filipino guide was also freed.

The Pentagon are also believed responsible for the recent abduction of a 7-year-old son of a Chinese-Filipino trader and the kidnapping of rice trader Martina Martin of Libungan town.

The boy was released after the MILF exerted pressure on the Pentagon but Martin is still held hostage.

Pikit Mayor Farida Malingco said the refugees were being temporarily housed in Pikit public schools and in the town plaza.

Here we go again

She said the villagers fled their homes with their children and work animals and rushed to the town center as the military began its assault on Barangay Bulod.

"I have seen this in the past, now here we are again, we have to attend to their needs and we have to do it fast because the number is increasing," Malingco said.

She said frightened residents from the nearby villages, of Gligli, Bulod, Bulit, Malabuwaya, Rajamuda, Talitay, Kabasalan, Inog-og and Balong have also fled their homes.

Imelda Balios, the Pikit social welfare officer, has appealed for food donations from town residents.

She said it was difficult to obtain relief goods from the provincial social welfare office as it was a Saturday. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP***

Palace unfazed by resignation of Frank Chavez

CHAVEZ

MALACAÑANG is not bothered by the resignation of former solicitor general Frank Chavez as special counsel in recovery efforts for the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said they were confident that the Department of Justice's efforts in the Marcos case will not be affected.

"No, we are not," he said when asked if Malacañang was bothered by Chavez's resignation.

"(He) has been very critical. And we're still confident that our prosecutors, private and public, would be able to exercise their task," he said.

Chavez resigned the other day as special counsel, accusing the DOJ of sitting on the recovery efforts for the Marcoses' alleged billion-dollar accounts abroad.

His critics, however, said he was frustrated because the government did not agree to give his client, Australian treasure hunter Reiner Jacobi a 10 percent commission to any recovered Marcos assets.

Tiglao said there are others "who are very interested" in volunteering their services to the government.

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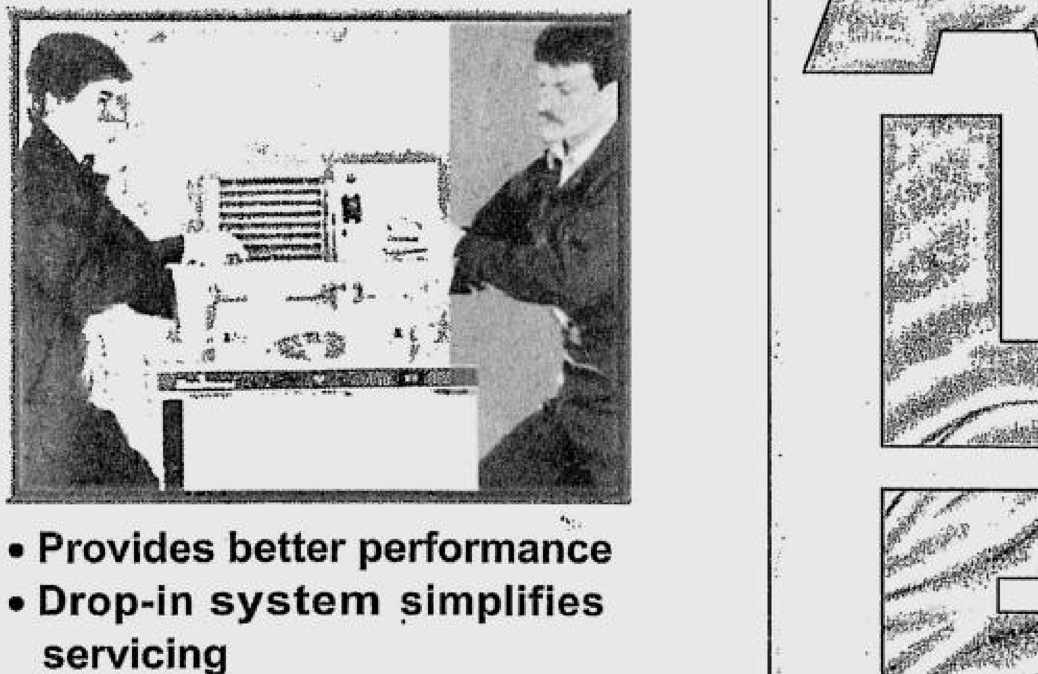

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Meteor showers to light up eastern sky tomorrow

By TJ Burgonio

ALL you need is a blanket and a good company.

Filipinos will be treated to a rare visual delight in the wee hours of Monday morning when thousands of meteors will rain down as the Earth comes into contact with debris left behind by Comet Temple-Tuttle, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The meteors, which appear to originate from the constellation of Leo, can be viewed near the eastern horizon of the Philippines, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said in an advisory.

The meteor shower will also be visible in Australia and eastern Asia.

Astronomers from the Australian National University and Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland predicted "a guaranteed meteor storm," said Dr. Bernardo Soriano Jr., chief of the Pagasa space sciences branch.

The meteor shower will peak around 1:30 a.m. Monday. Around that time, observers are advised to look up in the northeast direction of the sky, he said.

For better viewing, Soriano said the observers should first locate the constellation of Leo, the Lion, and focus their vision at the clearest and darkest portion of the sky with least obstruction.

"A blanket, reclining chair, some warm beverages, and a good company are the only requisite ingredients for observation," he said, adding that a fast film (ISA 400 or faster) and a fast standard wide-angle lends are the best combination in photographing meteors.

The meteor shower occurs as the Earth passes through "the cumulative stream of debris laid down" by Comet Temple-Tuttle in 1699, 1767, and 1866 this month, Pagasa said.

During Earth's contact with the comet's debris, North and Central America will witness falling meteors on the night of Nov. 18 while Australia and East Asia, including the Philippines, will also have a glimpse of meteors in the early morning of Nov. 19.

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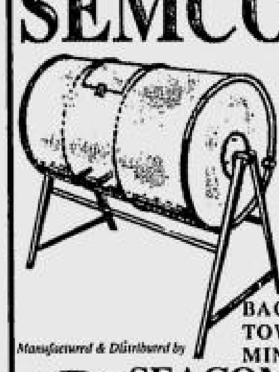

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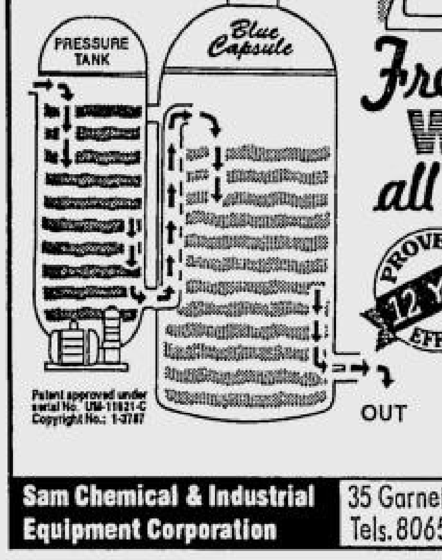

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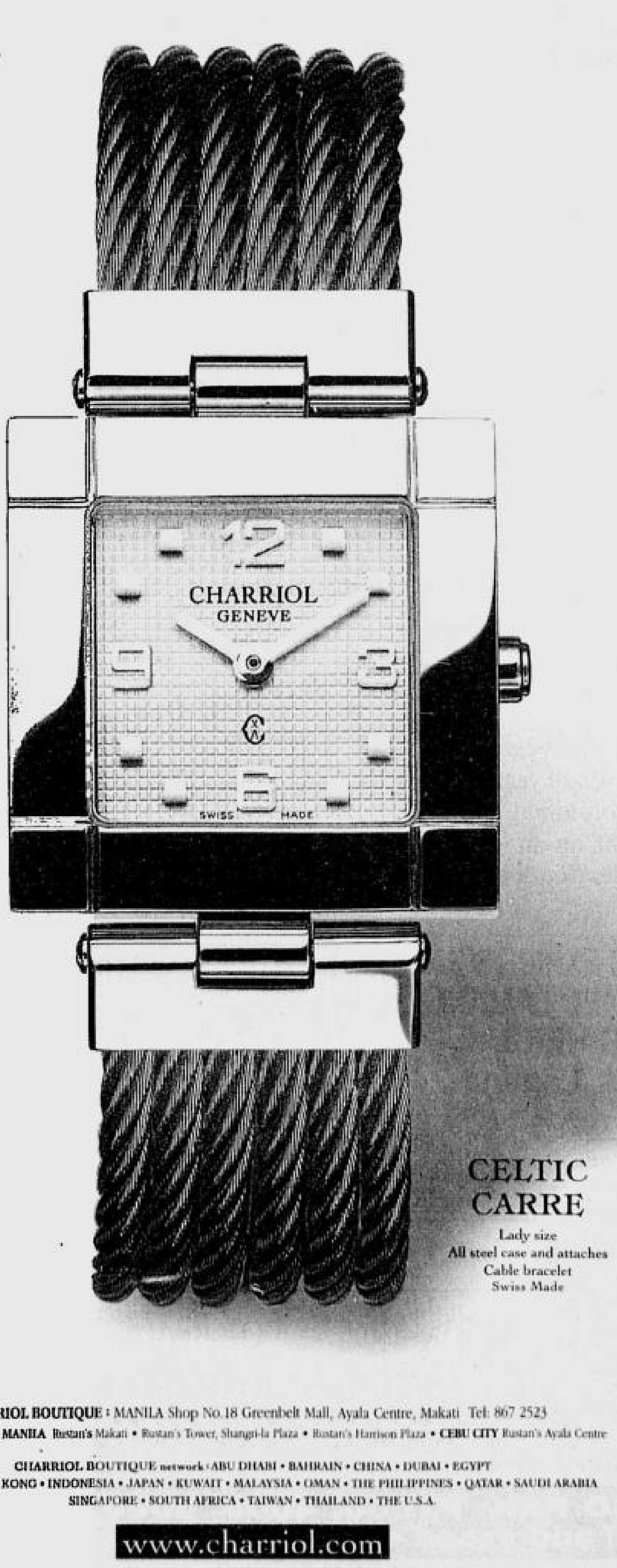

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Muslim clerics shun ARMM polls due to Ramadan

By Allan A. Nawal
Butch D. Enerio
and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Muslim clerics, identified with powerful Ulama organizations in the country, have declared the coming elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to be *haram* (prohibited).

But while outgoing ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari has said the Nov. 26 polls would violate the 1996 peace accord with the government, the clerics cited the fasting and holy month of Ramadan as the reason for their *fatwa*, or edict.

From time to time, Muslim clerics issue rulings, especially on thorny issues that affect the practice of Islam.

"It is... forbidden to have evil thoughts, words and acts during Ramadan," Sheikh Jam'. Yahya, acting chair of the Bangsamoro Supreme Council of Ulama, wrote in the proclamation.

Yahya said it was "*haram* to call elections during Ramadan because it makes Muslims criticize each other, (sow) intrigues (against) each other."

He said it was also normal for those involved in elections to commit un-Islamic acts such as "self advertising" and lying.

Yahya said there are also vote-buying, fraudulent acts and even terrorism and violence during elections, which defeat the spirit of Ramadan.

Able-bodied Muslims during this month are required to withdraw fully from such worldly concerns as food, sex and other activities that tend to draw attention away from Allah.

The declaration also urged the Commission on Elections to postpone the regional polls because it violates the Muslims' right to practice their religion.

"In the same light (that) no elections can be held during Christmas and Holy Week because it is against Christian teachings," Yahya said.

But if they are forced to vote, the edict called on Muslims "to vote against the government (candidates) or leave their ballots blank as a sign that they consider the elections to be *haram*," Yahya wrote.

Other alim (plural of *ulama*) who signed the *fatwa* were Sheikh Abdulmajid Goling, administrator of the Islamic Center in Quiapo; Sheikh Usman Imam of the Ulama Conference of the Philippines, Sheikh Farouk Cali of the Jamaat Muslimen, and Sheikh Faisal Abdullah, spiritual leader of the Tableegh Movement.

In Marawi City, Comelec Commissioner Resurrection Borra said everything was ready for the elections.

The prospects of having the polls postponed are dim, a Muslim solon said.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said there is no hope a bill, which seeks to reset the ARMM polls, would be approved by Congress.

At least eight Muslim solons have backed postponement of the elections, but Dilangalen said the bill "was killed."

Malacañang has been pushing for the elections, despite opposition from various sectors. It's believed the Palace played a role in the House's trashing of the proposal to reset the polls.

Amid rumors of violence breaking out should the polls push through, Col. Romeo Tolentino, 104th Army Brigade commander, assured the people of Sulu the military is prepared to handle any eventuality.

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Gordon hails partial lifting of Japan travel warning

NEW YORK—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday urged the Philippine tourism community to continue with its vigilance and solidarity in protecting the gains of tourism and pursuing programs to bring more tourists to the country.

Gordon aired this call following the partial lifting of the Level 2 travel advisory issued last month by the Japanese foreign ministry. Level 2 cautioned Japanese travelers against travel to the entire Philippines, causing a major drop in Japanese arrivals to the country. The Japanese are the biggest group of travelers to the Philippines from Asia.

Meanwhile, Cebu tourism and trade officials yesterday urged the Philippine Airlines to immediately normalize flight operations to Cebu City with the downgrading of the alert level on Japanese travel to Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Samar and Masbate.

PAL used to fly five times a week from Osaka to Cebu and four times a week from Cebu to Tokyo. It only retained three flights a week from Cebu to Tokyo.

"The downgrading of the advisory in Cebu and other parts of the Visayas, is a victory of the virtue of solidarity," Gordon told US-based travel executives promoting travel to the Philippines.

Gordon referred to the advocacy presented by the tourism industry under the Federation of Tourism Industry Professionals (FTIP) and its cooperation with the government to check the unwarranted issuance of the travel advisory by the Japanese foreign ministry.

Upon assumption as secretary, Gordon rallied for the creation of a united front by the private sector on crucial issues affecting tourism to speed up tourism growth. A DOT-initiated tourism congress last August activated the tourism federation which vigorously worked for the Level 2 downgrade.

"There is still more to be won. Other parts of the Philippines are still covered by the Level 2 advisory and other nations still have active advisories cautioning travelers about Philippine destinations," said Gordon.

'Couples' keeping faith with Gloria

By Armand N. Nocum

COUPLES for Christ, the religious lay organization, has distanced itself from allusions it has withdrawn its support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reacting to a report in yesterday's INQUIRER, CFC council member and home office director Rouquel A. Ponte reiterated the CFC's "continuing confidence in and support for President Macapagal, and (for) her administration to succeed."

The report had quoted CFC elder Ado Paglinawan as saying "several civil society groups" were withdrawing their support from the President because her administration seemed focused on only one thing—getting her reelected in 2004.

Paglinawan, however, had stressed during the interview that he was not speaking in behalf of the CFC, but was merely reporting what he had learned during visits to various civil society groups in Manila and Mindanao.

He said the civil society groups, which he did not name, had worked for the ouster of ex-President Joseph Estrada and had supported Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency.

Politicking

But now, he said, they were becoming disgruntled by the seeming lack of direction of the administration and the apparent politicking being conducted by the President who has made no secret of her desire to run again in 2004.

In a statement, Ponte pointed out that Paglinawan had referred to "some civil society groups" in the report, not the CFC.

He said the CFC has not taken issue with the President, although their relationship has been described as one of "critical collaboration" by Paglinawan.

On the contrary, Ponte said, the CFC supports the President's war on poverty and is engaged in livelihood, education and other poverty-alleviation projects in some 60 depressed areas in the country.

The CFC, he said, is also doing its part in waste management and other environmental concerns, drug rehabilitation and the plight of street children. Its medical mission goes around the country providing medical assistance to the poor and underprivileged, he added.

Invited for counseling

Still, Paglinawan yesterday invited President Macapagal and her family to join the CFC and undergo spiritual counseling.

Paglinawan, an elder in the CFC's political ministry—St. Thomas More and Associates—said counseling would help the President recover her footing and direction.

"When you join the CFC, you finally find your centering... we find her right now (to be) wishy-washy," Paglinawan told the INQUIRER.

He reiterated that this was not necessarily the view of the CFC, but of "some civil society organizations" that, like the CFC, actively participated in the ouster of Estrada and the installation of Ms Macapagal. *With Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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WALA RING PERA?
Gusto mong magkatrabaho at magkapera?
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BAWAL NA MAGTIPID AT MAGBADYET
NAIMBENTO NA ANG PAMPAYAMAN
Hindi anting-anting o magic
Yung walang pera, nagkakapera
Yung walang trabaho nagkakatrabaho
Yung hindi nananalo. laging nananalo
Sa BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

BIGLANG-YAMAN
DUMARAMI
DAHIL SA PYRAMID

GOOD NEWS GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA "NAIMBENTO NA"
HINDI AGIMAT, TALISMAN O MAGIC, ITO AY IMBENSYON
LUCKY PYRAMID
PARA HINDI NA MAUBUSAN NG PERA

MILYUN-MILYONG PREMYO
HINAKOT NG PYRAMIID
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Gumamit ng Pampa- YAMAN
"Gamot sa sakit sa Bulsa."
Hindi kayo mauubusan ng PERA.
Talagang Totoo Lalong Gumagastos, lalong dumarating ang PERA. Walang Mawawala kung susubukan.
YAYAMAN KA LANG

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para laging PANALO SA LOTTO, JAI ALAI, BINGO, ENDING, SWEEPTAKES atbp.

"PAGMABILIS KANG BUMILI MABILIS KANG MANALO"

CONGRATULATIONS!
▷Businesswoman from Cubao nanalo ng 8 million jackpot sa Lotto pagkabili ng wishing plant at LUCKKY PYRAMID
▷2 beses nanalo ng Jackpot sa LOTTO empleyado ng QC Hall Mr. Ramon Briones (Nasa US na ngayon) nakabili ng White Pyramid W/ face of Jesus sa QC Hall (23 million)
▷Matulupad lahat ng pangarap mo Nagkapajero, Toyota Corolla XE, House & LOt Worth P2 5M at nagka-US Visa pagkabili ng GREEN LUCKY PYRAMID - Ellen G. (Mapayapa Village)

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Engr. Margie D. Centeno
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July 1, 2001
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LUMALAKAS ANG NEGOYO, NANALO NG APAT NA BESES SA BINGO SA LOOB NG 1 AARAW
NITONG nagdaang Pebrero 2001, isang ginang ng Lusiana Laguna ay nagpatotoo na lumalakas ang kanyang NEGOSYO. "ngayon mayroon na akong dalwang Truck, isang Besta Van at Honda type Z at Condo unit dahil sa Green Pyramid lumakas ang negosyo ko" Ayon sa kanya samantala, isang mag-asawa naman ng bayog Los Baños Laguna ang tumama ng apat na beses sa Bingo. "Isang lingo pagkabili naman ng Green at White Pyramid , Tumama kami ng apat na beses sa Bingo sa loob lamang ng isang araw (Feb. 27) sa Olivares Plaza, umabot sa P 54,500.00 ang panalo namin," pahayag ng mag-asawa.

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* Mrs. Rose Lim ng Project 4 QC nagwagi rin ng P1 MILLION sa Bingo sa Farmers Plazza matapos makabili ng Green Pyramid.

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-Ruth ng Malaking Bato Anos, Los Baños

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-Lynna

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Carague elected to UN audit body

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly has unanimously elected Commission on Audit chair Guillermo Carague to a new six-year term as member of the powerful UN Board of Auditors, the body tasked with the audit of all UN offices, agencies, missions and programs in different countries worldwide.

Carague, who represents the Philippines, was elected by acclamation on Nov. 2 at the UN Fifth (Finance) Committee meeting during the 56th Regular Session of the 178-member United Nations General Assembly being held at the UN Headquarters in New York. His candidacy was unopposed.

Carague is the current chair of the UNBOA, the post he took over from his predecessor, following his appointment as COA chair by President Macapagal-Arroyo in February.

With Carague's UN victory, the Philippines will continue holding its UNBOA seat until June 30, 2008 or a total of nine years counted from July 1, 1999 when the Philippines was elected member of the UNBA for a three-year term (1999-2002).

Relief for Camiguin

GO TONG Foundation Inc. is spearheading Operation Tulong: Camiguin Victims, a donation drive for the victims of typhoon "Nanang." Donations in the form of canned goods, noodles, clothings, rice, sleeping mats and blankets are being accepted at Ever-Gotesco Malls Ground level in Recto, Grand Central, Commonwealth and Ortigas up to Nov. 30. Distribution of donations will be handled by the projects partner, GMA-7 Bisig Bayan Foundation.

Also ongoing at all Ever Gotesco Malls is "Gifts for a Cause" Year 4, a fund drive for cancer-stricken children up to Dec. 31. Cash donation boxes are located at Ever-Gotesco Malls, Ever Department Store and Supermarket. "Gifts for a Cause" is a project of Go Tong Foundation and Ever Gotesco Malls in cooperation with GMA-7 Bisig Bayan Foundation.

TELECOMS BRIBE SCANDAL

Witness vs Mike A can't be found

BY CARLITO PABLO

WHERE is Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo?

The businessman who claimed to have bribed people close to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in connection with two telecommunications franchises appears to have made himself scarce.

Efforts by the Senate blue ribbon committee to solicit his sworn statement—the requirement before a witness is allowed to testify—have been for naught as he could not be located at his listed residence and office addresses.

At one time, security guards at his offices refused to receive communications sent by the blue ribbon committee.

The blue ribbon committee has a no-affidavit-no-testimony rule to keep its proceedings orderly and efficient.

Committee director general Emilia Pueyo said that unless Marcelo submits his affidavit, rules will keep him out of Senate hearings on the telecommunications controversy.

Pueyo also belied Marcelo's claim that based on his and Pueyo's telephone conversation last Tuesday, Marcelo will finally appear before the blue ribbon committee on Nov. 22.

Pueyo noted that in that telephone conversation, Marcelo was simply asked to submit his sworn statement for the Nov. 14 hearing because it is required before a witness can make his oral testimony.

Besides, Puyeo added, the blue ribbon committee has not set a Nov. 22 hearing on the telecommunications issue.

"Mr. Marcelo has not submitted his sworn statement to the committee. He has, however, submitted his views to the media," Pueyo said.

Pueyo's last statement refers to recent stories ran by the INQUIRER based on telephone interviews with Marcelo who had claimed that people close to the First Couple extorted money from him.

Pueyo said that the committee sent two separate communications, one dated Oct. 9 to Marcelo as president of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. whose listed address was Unit 907 Richmonde Plaza, San Miguel Avenue corner Lourdes Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

"The guards in his office refused to receive the two letters according to the committee server," Pueyo said.

Another communication dated Oct. 15 was sent to his residence at Renaissance 2000 Building at Meralco Avenue in Pasig.

Two agents of the National Bureau of Investigation who were detailed with the committee and tasked to serve the letter reported that Marcelo "had already vacated his rented unit" and that he "left no forwarding address."

The two NBI agents, in a report dated Nov. 6, also said that Renaissance property manager Vincent Clado "assured that the committee will be properly informed as soon as his office gets hold of any information regarding Mr. Marcelo's address."

Pueyo, however, noted that the committee has received no update.

Because of difficulties in trying to reach him, the blue ribbon committee obtained on Nov. 13 the records of the Senate committee on public services and franchises his telephone number 633-8208.

"The undersigned director-general rang up the aforesaid number and luckily Mr. Marcelo answered. He was asked to submit his sworn statement for the Nov. 14, 2001 hearing," Pueyo said but noted that no affidavit was ever forwarded by Marcelo.

Marcelo earlier claimed that bribery took place in an attempt to recall the veto cast by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the congressional franchises of PCCI and APC Wireless.

Records, however, show that President Macapagal did not rescind her veto.

Gov't keeps eye on Sino criminals

CEBU CITY—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said a number of Chinese nationals are being monitored because of their involvement in illegal drug trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom operations in the country.

He told a press conference that he had asked the help of his counterpart in China in monitoring the activities of these suspects.

"We will exchange information," Perez said of his meeting with the deputy procurator general in Guandong, China, on Nov. 8.

He, however, declined to identify them except that they are all male between 20 to 35 years old and residents of Fujian, China.

Perez was in Cebu to speak before the Batangueños Association of Cebu at the Cebu Grand Convention along Archbishop Reyes Avenue.

Perez said the National Anti-Crime Commission is already conducting surveillance operation on the suspects. The NACC is under the Department of Justice.

The DOJ, he added, is also checking the bank accounts of the suspects.

Perez said these Chinese nationals entered to the country in 1996 as tourists. They put up their base of operations and applied what they learned from China about shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) manufacturing.

After putting up their base, Perez said the suspects then started recruiting members in China.

The secretary, however, admitted that they had yet to identify the suspects' local buyers of illegal drugs. *Debra Jane V. Magallon PDI Visayas Bureau*

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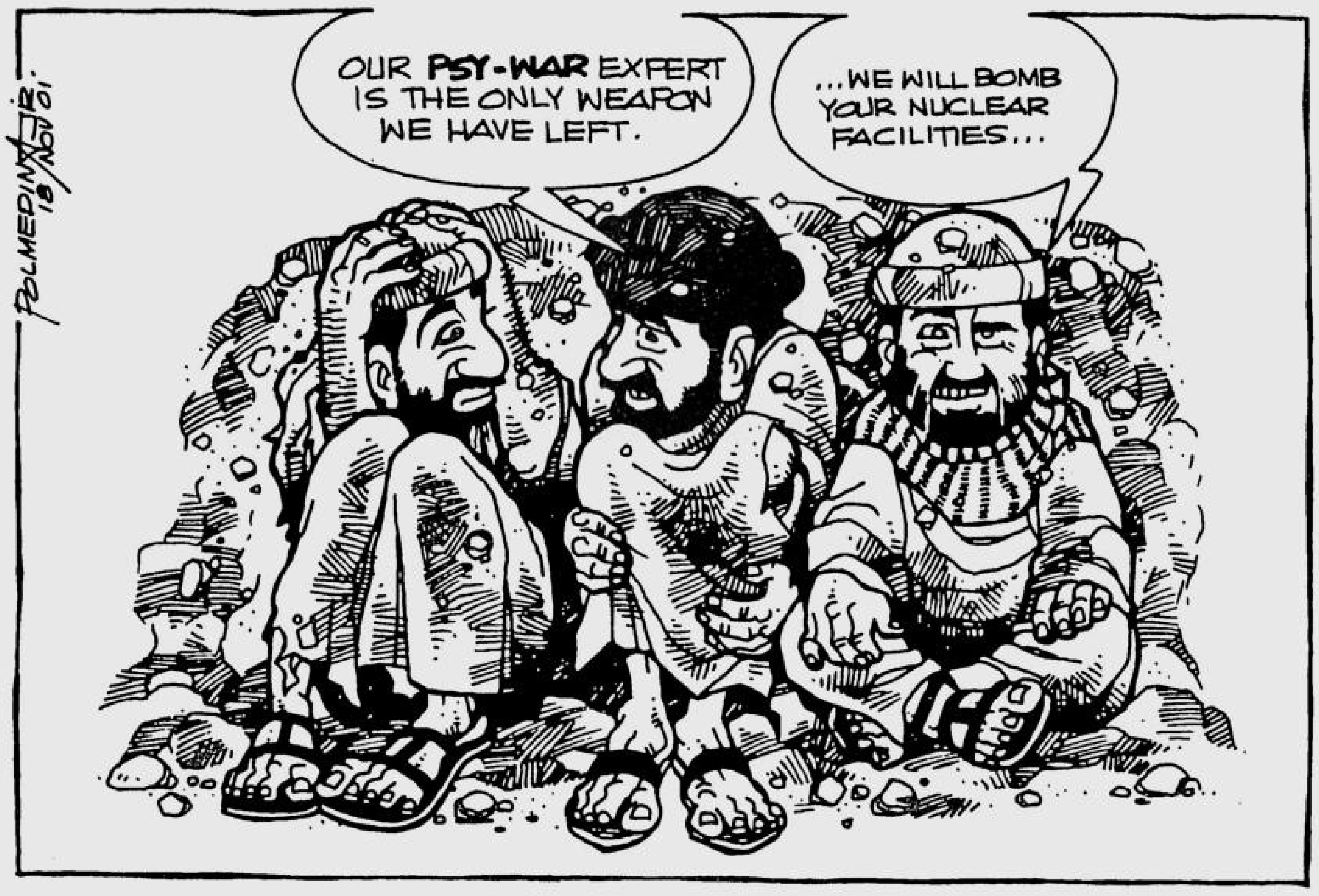
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EDITORIALS

Out of darkness

WE will not quibble over the details. Whether the seven hostages were "released" on Thursday by the notorious Abu Sayyaf or "recovered" by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, their newly regained freedom is proof that light can indeed be seen at the end of the hostage-crisis tunnel.

Today the Abu Sayyaf has only three hostages in captivity: Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham, who were abducted on May 27 from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap, abducted on June 2 from the hospital in Lamitan, Basilan.

Let us be clear. As long as there remains even one victim held hostage by even one bandit, the Abu Sayyaf crisis cannot be considered solved. And in fact, much remains to be done. But we must give credit where it is due.

What the military calls "continuing pursuit operations" have harried and hounded the bandits in their own backyard. The national uproar over the controversial escape of the bandit group and their hostages on June 2—the subject of no less than two congressional investigations—has apparently given the AFP the resolve to apply itself to the task at hand; to date, about 7,000 troops have been deployed in Basilan. The arrival of American military advisers (and equipment) has helped the AFP's Southern Command to increase the pressure on the hostage-takers.

One result of this fortunate sequence of events: the release or recovery of the seven hostages last week.

Into the light

THE MILITARY knows better than to squander its advantage this time. If the weakened and divided bandit group manages to abduct new hostages, or its top leaders slip out of the island, the public outrage will be so strong even a revamp of the military's top brass may not be able to calm it down.

On the other hand, if and when the AFP rescues the last hostages, or finally captures bandit leaders Khaddafy Janjalani and Abu Sabaya, public praise for the men and women in uniform will rival what they enjoyed last January after they withdrew their support from a discredited, no-longer-legitimate administration. And the resulting spike in business confidence will give the economy a much-needed boost.

So the AFP knows what to do: it must press on.

On Friday, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Southern Command, said the rescue of the remaining hostages from "about 74" bandits was "a big possibility." He added: "All my forces are dedicated to conduct the rescue."

Acting Defense Secretary Edgardo Batenga vowed no let-up in the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf. "We will never negotiate," he promised. "We will not stop our operations. Our intention is to destroy totally the Abu Sayyaf within our capability."

About time, too. We have all learned a lesson from last year, when after the last victims of the 2000 hostage crisis were released the government inexplicably turned complacent. This gave the bandits the breathing room to use their ransom money to secure sophisticated weaponry and hire more recruits, directly leading to the raid in Palawan and this year's hostage crisis.

So the AFP must not only press on; it must prevent the bandit group from ever becoming a threat again. This means stationing a bigger regular detachment on the island and mounting more patrols up and down the coastline after the crisis. That's right: more regular military presence, not less, after the crisis—at least for the short term.

At the same time, the national government must begin working with the local governments and civil society groups in Basilan to prepare for a post-Abu Sayyaf future. The only way to deny the bandits and others like them the breathing room they crave is to starve terrorism of the oxygen it needs: rank poverty, abject ignorance, an almost total neglect. The long-term solution is not military in character. Even the armed services know that now.

Culture differences

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ON MY first visit to Canton many years ago, I went with a friend to a popular restaurant not much different from the Toho and San Jacinto restaurants at T. Pinpin in Manila, except that it was bigger. Already there were a number of appropriately clothed customers, most of the men wearing white long sleeved tie-less shirts. When the food they had ordered began to arrive, the men casually took off their shirts, revealing their *sando* undershirts. It was in this informal attire that they then partook of their lunch with gusto and without self-consciousness. It seemed to be the most natural thing to do. Nobody seemed to mind.

I was shocked, of course. This wasn't done in polite society, or even in well-bred homes. But this was Canton, China, not Paris or London or New York, or even Manila, where eating in public is supposed to be done in style or at least not in one's undershirt. This was China, where there's a different etiquette for eating and the food itself might also be unusual.

Earlier, my friend Willy Ko and I had hired a taxi and asked the driver, a girl, to show us the sights. We did a lot of shopping on the way, and when lunchtime came, we invited her to join us. She accepted and parked her taxi by the wayside with all our purchases inside. I worried that our things might be stolen, but she dismissed my fears with a laugh. Sure enough, when we returned later, the taxi had not been carnapped and all our shopping was intact. That was my second culture shock that day.

Years later, during an invited visit to China, my wife and I stayed for some time at the well-known forest resort of Westlake. We were assigned a cottage in the care of a dour-looking woman who hardly said a word of welcome. As she prepared to leave, I asked her for the keys, which made her suddenly flare up like a wounded dragon. "Keys? What keys?" she hissed as if I had accused her of grand larceny. "NO KEYS!" she intoned in a voice of doom. Properly abashed, I retreated like a whipped dog. We realized later, to my chagrin, that there was really no need for keys.

My very good friend Monico R. Vicente, the late ambassador, accompanied me on my first trip from Kobe to Tokyo on the bullet train. Two porters grabbed our bags and Monic gave them the stubs of our tickets. I started to follow them but Monic asked where I was going. I told him I had to see that they did not run off with our bags. My friend, who had stayed long as a student and then as a diplomat in Japan, simply laughed and said we might loll around a while. We had our shoes polished, walked about a bit, and then proceeded to our booths for our ride. The porters were waiting for us with our bags.

Each country has its own culture and idiosyncrasies that may seem strange and even crude to other people. To the Westerner, slurping soup is a sign of ill-breeding; to the Oriental guest, it is done deliberately to emphasize his appreciation of the host's hospitality. Arranged marriages are still practiced in many places, including our own rural villages. In the backwaters of India, the ancient ritual of the *suttee*, which requires the widow to immolate herself at the funeral pyre of her husband, is still being followed with fanatic faith. An Irish wake is celebrated with rum and song even as professional mourners in Italy weep for the unknown deceased.

I have never ceased to be amazed at the aplomb with which Filipinos lie under oath, unlike the Americans who regard their word as sacred. Those who disbelieve soon find themselves in trouble with the law, like Al Capone. He could not be convicted of the many murders he committed but was found guilty of perjury and ended his bloody career in prison. Here taxpayers prosper for lying to the BIR.

Western thought considers suicide the coward's way out of his dilemma—look at the irresolute Hamlet. In Japan, hara-kiri is the code of the samurai, the honorable way to atone for one's sins or even to expiate the wrongs of others. In the United States, it's the father of the bride who pays for her wedding but not here in the Philippines, where it's the father of the groom who does.

Among Filipinos, respect for women has long been an honored tradition although it may be fast disappearing. During a more genteel era, men rose when a woman entered the room, gave way to let her pass, offered her a seat. That gallantry has yielded to comfort and convenience and the practical rule that "when in Rome, do as the Romans do." That means don't give up your seat to the old lady or the pregnant woman; hey, don't be a show-off. Maybe it's the fault of the women themselves, who seem to believe that "anything you can do I can do better." That includes being president but, shucks, anyone can do it better than Erap.

Some foreign contagion may even slip beyond its shores and invade other countries, like the gangster culture of the Sicilians that has flourished in the United States. Now there are the Russian Mafia, the Japanese Yakuza and the Chinese triads, all operating their own brand of mob fiefdoms.

The Chinese use of the *sando* for outer wear has infected the Philippines, where it is now being worn not merely for sports but also for casual activities like driving a car, watching a movie, or shopping in the mall. Colored *sandos* seem to be a small concession to convention but are no less vulgar. And then there is dyed hair.

Hollywood fads and fashion have gripped the entire world with the exception of some Muslim countries, where the men prohibit the women from uncovering their faces and so must take pot luck when they marry. Divorce is part of the culture of many countries but not of ours where the Catholic influence frowns on the dissolution of marriage unless decreed by the church itself, usually for a fee.

Christian males may be grumbling that they are allowed only one wife (at a time) while their Muslim countrymen may have as many as four legitimate wives simultaneously. Some people don't know better than to leave well enough alone.

In some African tribes, the measure of beauty is the length of a woman's neck. That may be an ugly criterion to others, but each to his own appetite. Suckling pig may make some people salivate although others may retch at it. The trick is to try to understand the other fellow's point of view even if it clashes with one's own perspective. Differences make life more interesting, although occasionally controversial. They're certainly better, though, than a seamless similarity throughout the world.

Ours to share, ours to care

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

HAVE you heard the story about a man who went to a wake but immediately rushed out? It was not because he was scared at the sight of the dead person, but because he panicked at the sign that said "Remains will be cremated." He did not want to remain a second longer in the place for fear that he might be cremated!

* * *

The Gospel today (Lk. 21, 5-19) is very scary. It paints a grim picture of wars, natural calamities, plagues, famine and persecution. The future does not look bright for us the living. Better for those who have gone ahead, they are already at peace.

Like the man in the story, don't you sometimes feel panicky about where the world is going and what's happening in the world and in our country right now? It's a fragile world we are living in. And how about the children? What will happen to them? Will they still have a world tomorrow? Don't you feel like you want to rush out of this world for fear of being cremated?

* * *

There are two things the Lord tells us in this scary scenario: Do not be deceived, and do not be terrified for "not a hair on your head will be destroyed." He asks us to remain vigilant in the face of many false prophets, and to be persevering in the face of many catastrophes and persecution. Furthermore, He asks us to give our testimony to those who hate us. His only assurance is that He will be with us through it all.

No, He does not give us any plan of action. All He tells us is to act according to His plan. Rest assured, He has a plan, He is in control, and all we have to do is persevere and trust in Him.

Malabo ba? Well, do you have a better plan, a better idea perhaps?

* * *

The Sept. 11 catastrophe, the anthrax scare, the Afghanistan war, the death of Nida Blanca—all these remind us that life is short and our world is fragile. There are many things beyond our control. Indeed, we realize that we are really helpless, and we are all small.

This is where faith comes in. Our faith will not give us concrete solutions to our problems, but it will give us the inspiration to go on seeking solutions. It will give us meaning, reason and hope to go on.

Life is short, so let's live it well. The world is fragile, so let's take care of it. We are helpless, so let's help one another and call on His help. We are small, so let's come together and hold on to Him who is big. Now, more than ever, we need to really reach out to one another and hold on to God our Father.

* * *

When a catastrophe happens in our families and in our personal lives, there isn't much we can say really. We have plenty of questions and very few answers. We have plenty of feelings and very little understanding. Questions lead us on. Feelings keep us going. But more than these, we should have plenty of faith to sustain us and give us meaning. I wish us all faith. Lots of faith especially in these times.

* * *

"Lord, the sea is so big, and my boat is so small."

This prayer perhaps sums up what many of us feel during these trying and uncertain times. Unless and until we learn to call out to God once again as individuals, as a family, as a nation and as one world, we may end up one day with no more world to speak of. But our faith is not just a matter of looking up. Precisely because we look up, we are able to look at our realities and take responsibility for the life and the world given to us. A text message I recently received said it so beautifully: "God owns us, our world, our work, our career, our business and our families. The skills we have, and the times in our hands are on loan to us. Life is no longer an issue of ownership but of management."

* * *

Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas is not just a matter of feeling cozy and feeling nice. On the contrary, more than any time of the year, it is the time to feel the blood, sweat and tears of the humanity which the Divine Word embraced in love. This early, start preparing your gift to God (one only: your heart) and your gifts of love to people around. Don't be overwhelmed by the world at large. All you have to do is to love, one day at a time, wherever you're at. Reach out.

* * *

From Lalin Basilio, here's one way to reach out: The Zonta International Bazaar at the Manila Peninsula Hotel on Nov. 25 starting from 9 a.m. Zonta will use the proceeds for its various service projects like medical missions, nutrition projects, scholarships, etc. My book "Simple Moments: For the Benefit of our Filipino Missionaries Abroad" will also be available there.

* * *

Dec. 8 is still some weeks away, but the XVDs and the Oasis of Love Community are already planning a morning in honor of Mama Mary at the Marikina Riverbanks, starting with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. See you there. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

This life is ours to share. This world is ours to care. (Don't be the weakest link. Goodbye!)

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, may we never forget that our life is ours to share, and our world is ours to care. Amen.

Taliban shifts to guerrilla war

NEWS ANALYSIS

Andrew Marshall

ISLAMABAD—Reports that the Taliban has decided to withdraw from its southern bastion of Kandahar, the last major city held by the fundamentalist militia, indicate that the conflict in Afghanistan has entered a new phase: guerrilla war.

Battered by a lightning ground offensive by its Afghan foes, backed by devastating US aerial firepower, the Taliban seems to have concluded it cannot win a conventional war and that it is not worth losing lives trying.

Analysts say the Taliban seems to be planning to vanish into the mountains, hiding in caves and remote valleys and staging a guerrilla campaign to harass their opponents, particularly the foreign troops likely to be sent into Afghanistan. The Taliban itself has repeatedly said its recent stunning territorial losses were part of a "tactical retreat."

It is a credible strategy, analysts say.

The rugged and inhospitable Afghan terrain is perfect for small groups of guerrilla fighters to mount lightning strikes and then melt away, as the mujahideen of the 1980s showed when they stood up to, and drove out, the mighty Soviet army.

But they may have left it too late. Analysts say a Taliban withdrawal from Kandahar could turn into a bloodbath as its fighters try to reach the mountains through the flat plains around the city, which will afford them no shelter from US strikes aimed at picking them off from the sky.

"There is going to be a massacre of the Taliban," said Afghanistan expert Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistani journalist who has covered the country for 20 years. "They are going to be under constant attack from the sky before they reach the safety of the mountains."

Taliban forces also face attacks on the ground. Opposition chief Hamid Karzai, advancing from the north with his forces, says there is a popular uprising against the Taliban. "Some Taliban forces are moving up north and probably they are leaving Kandahar," he told CNN. "But there are some skirmishes. The people have stopped the Taliban retreating and have caused a skirmish."

Even for those who reach the safety of the mountains, there is a major obstacle in waging an effective guerrilla war: they need the support of the local population, and that is something they appear to have lost.

"They have left it too late," Rashid said. "Even if they had done this a week ago, they would have had a better chance. But now they seem to have lost local support, and with the people against them, they cannot survive."

The mujahideen who took on the Soviets in the 1980s could not have done so without popular support. If the Taliban has lost support even among fellow ethnic Pashtuns in the south, its fighters have few places left to turn.

But Afghan allegiances are notoriously fickle, and there is still a chance the Taliban could survive. Fiercely independent, many Afghans bitterly resent foreign interference in their country, and if the US-led forces outstay their welcome, they could drive people back into the arms of the Taliban.

Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants in the al-Qaida network would relish the chance to hit back at the foreign troops that have given his forces such a pounding.

Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir, who says he interviewed Bin Laden and his top lieutenant Ayman Zawahri a week ago, told Reuters that even before the Taliban forces retreated from major cities, they were already planning a withdrawal and change in strategy. Bin Laden, Mir said, had decided to "carry on his fight from the mountains" and turn the war into a guerrilla conflict rather than an unequal fight pitting the Taliban against an opposition backed by massive US bombing.

"According to my understanding, he knew the Northern Alliance would take Kabul and other cities," Mir said. "But he said that if the Northern Alliance came out into the cities and came out into the open, the Taliban would get the advantage. He wants to get the Americans into the open also."

In conventional battles, anti-Taliban troops were able to leave most of the work to US bombers and missiles, something that particularly irked Zawahri, Mir said.

"They are just sitting playing chess and playing volleyball while we are getting bombed," Mir quoted Zawahri as saying. "We want to bring them out into the open so we can attack them."

Public opinion will be crucial in the coming days. If the Pashtun south comes out against the Taliban, the movement will face annihilation.

A few determined pockets of hard-line guerrillas could hold out in the mountains but would not be much more than a nuisance.

But the mainly ethnic Tajik and Uzbek Northern Alliance that has taken Kabul is regarded with deep suspicion by the majority Pashtuns, and if they try to cling on to power rather than set up a broad-based government, this could save the Taliban.

Pashtun anger at the Northern Alliance and their US-led backers could sustain a dangerous guerrilla war, analysts say. ***Reuters***

The ideal of sexual pleasure

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE of the speakers at the "Workshop on Muslim Laws, Population and Reproductive Rights" organized by the Pilipina Legal Resources Center in Davao, was Prof. Rashidah Shuib of Sisters in Islam and the Kelantan Family Planning Association in Malaysia.

Unfortunately, I had to leave for Manila without meeting her, though Shuib left a "token" of her thoughts and research in a slim booklet, titled "Islam and Family Planning," of which she was one of the writers.

Also quite interesting were the proceedings of previous workshops in the ongoing series of discussions on "Gender, Muslims Laws and Reproductive Rights," collected in a single volume.

Isabelita "Bing" Solamo Antonio, executive director of the Davao-based PLRC and a lawyer herself, explained the thinking behind the project, funded by the Ford Foundation, in her foreword. She said: "The issue we are addressing is that women's lack of autonomy is justified by invoking customary practices often thought to be part of religious law. Some of these male biased interpretations of Islamic laws have found their way into statutory Muslim laws. The agenda is not necessarily to move towards secularism but to rediscover core concepts of justice and equality in the legal system of Islam as a tool for promoting reproductive rights."

Shuib reinforces the idea when she says that "serious discussions on the reproductive and sexual rights of Muslim women are rare and these issues have seldom been analyzed within the bounds of religion by progressive Muslim scholars, or dealt with in the context of the local situation in Asia."

Thus the efforts among women in Muslim societies in the region to understand themselves and their roles in society in the context of both faith and personal aspiration; to reconcile their rights as women and sexual creatures, with their faith and its teachings.

* * *

PREVIOUSLY, I'd written about *al-azl* or withdrawal, a form of contraception that was practiced even while the Prophet was alive and written about in the sacred texts of Islam. "The fact that no verse was revealed to ban the practice of al-azl as a form of contraception at a time when the Companions and Muslims of Medina were practicing it meant that Allah (swt) permitted the practice," states "Islam and Family Planning."

By extension, it says, ulama have concluded that "alternative methods of contraception can be allowed as long as the purpose is to prevent pregnancy.

"Therefore, modern day types of contraception, including barrier methods like diaphragm and condom, spermicide, pills, injectables and IUDs, are allowed. Also allowed are the traditional methods of rhythm, basal body temperature, and controlling cervical mucus." Indeed, the booklet states that proponents of family planning among ulama (or religious leaders) say that any form of contraception that does not permanently destroy the ability to procreate is permissible.

Though permanent methods of contraception, such as tubal ligation or vasectomy are discouraged, at least by the National Fatwa Council in Malaysia, "exceptions can be made in certain situations." Among these are: a woman cannot use any (other) form of contraception for health reasons, and a pregnancy could endanger her life.

* * *

SOME startling (at least for me) revelations about Koranic teachings on women and sexuality were contained in the talk of Bagian Aleyssa Abdulkarim of the Salam Foundation and the Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga. In her talk on "Reproductive Rights and AIDS: Implementation of Statutory Muslim Laws," Abdulkarim lists the following reproductive rights of women mentioned in Islamic scripture: the right to choose a spouse, the right to divorce, the right to enjoy or refuse sex, the right to a dowry, the right to inheritance, the right to work within and outside the home, and all other civil rights enjoyed by men.

I was particularly struck by Abdulkarim's assertion that "Islamic jurisprudence views marriage as a contract where each party is given their rights and responsibilities; and are expected to fulfill their obligations in order to achieve a satisfactory relationship."

A hadith counsels: "If one of you would like to have sexual relations with your wife do not do it as if you were two camels or donkeys, but rather to be with her whispering sweet nothings and showering her with kisses."

A husband, so it is taught, should seek sexual relations with his wife through "an approach that is persuasive rather than by force."

* * *

ABDULKARIM adds: "The Prophet forbade men (husbands) to pursue only their own pleasures without taking the trouble to ensure that the same pleasure is also achieved by his partner (wife)."

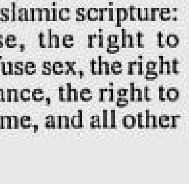
The relevant passage: "If one of you are in the company of your wife, do pay complete attention to her needs, in the event that the man (husband) has fulfilled his desires (reached orgasm) before his wife, he should not leave her in haste but stay until she reaches her orgasm."

Before Christian women start turning green with envy at their Muslim sisters, whose scriptures would seem to guarantee them the "right" to an orgasm, this is what Lily Zakiyah Munir has to say in her talk "Islam and Sexual Health—From Ideals to Realities: A Case Study of Elderly Javanese Muslim Women." Among the major findings of the study were that women lack knowledge of their own sexual rights; and that local beliefs and culture, which hold that women are subordinate to men, hold sway over scriptural teachings. Says Munir: "Traditional values and beliefs stemming from local cultures and male biased interpretations of Islamic teachings which subjugate women are so widely accepted (that) these have created gaps between the Qur'anic ideals and their realities."

But we can take heart in some of her findings. One of these was that though some of the women believed early in their marriages that men held the power in sexual relations, "some informants managed to make sex a source of bargaining power with the husbands and a source of energy and power in life."

A future without Gloria

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

DESPITE a disappointing first year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo still has a chance to be remembered as among our best presidents—but only if she can think of her present term as her last. She must reconcile herself to a future without Gloria, and work for a social vision that will make it easier for her successor to solve our country's persistent problems. She need not proclaim it, but, if she truly wants to succeed, a disavowal of 2004 must be the unconditional premise of her remaining years as President.

This irony is the fruit of many contingencies. Unlike previous presidents, Gloria's succession to the presidency did not confer upon her the instant popular approval normally given to a newly installed leader. The acceptance of her presidency was, from the start, ambiguous. She began with very low ratings amid very high expectations for change. And those ratings have been progressively declining. The one thing going for her—the euphoria that greeted the fall of an unfit president—has all but vanished.

In the public mind, the three years entrusted to her from the unfinished term of the deposed president were meant for her to set things right, and not to give her lead time to plan a reelection. The politics of reform she announced at the beginning of her presidency captured the essence of Edsa II's yearning to rebuild institutions and to establish a new benchmark for governance. But the subsequent behavior of her government reduced this goal to mere rhetoric.

Choosing political consolidation over daring political reform, Gloria started courting and appeasing power blocs that have historically obstructed all efforts at reform. She appointed individuals of doubtful capability to sensitive public positions out of political expediency. She offered cushy appointments to disgruntled military officers, and entered into electoral coalitions with groups that were known to be identified with feudal politics. The active role that her husband played in determining key appointments to cash-laden government agencies left no doubt that 2004 dominated her agenda.

Edsa II exploded because Filipinos were tired of corruption, opportunism and incompetence in government. Today they are certain that nothing much has changed except the faces of the key players. They do not see any boldness of vision, no decisiveness in policy, no coherence in government programs, no sustained effort to produce any enduring change and no clear plan to survive a looming global economic crisis. This sense of drift predisposes our people toward authoritarian solutions, that is why there has lately been much talk of military intervention.

In January this year, our people knew that Gloria was not the right person to take on the job of reforming our society. Steeped in the ways of traditional politics, she lacked the qualities of a visionary leader who would risk everything to move our society forward. But between a future that foretold prolonged turbulence and a present that assured the preservation of a constitutional order, our people chose the latter. In their perception, Gloria would be a transitional President, a legal bridge to a new social order. If she did well, a grateful nation might automatically reward her a new term without her asking for it.

Her political handlers saw it differently however. They thought that three years was too short to make any real difference. Their decision was to consolidate now to ensure a second term.

They judged wrongly. It is the transitions that are crucial to a nation's future. Their value lies not so much in the visible results they produce as in the new ethos they establish. The circumstances of Gloria's rise to the presidency require an uncommon selflessness, a heroism, and a passion not demanded of politicians in normal times. She could have inaugurated a new mode of governance, but until now she has opted to be just an ordinary politician.

Is it too late to shift paradigms? There is time, but she must act now. While the more visible problems of our country today are in the realm of peace and order and urban management, the more central ones are still economic. The global recession will surely aggravate the poverty that has been the lot of half of our population. Gloria can begin by defining our present social and economic situation in very candid terms and by offering a feasible plan to address it. The composition of her Cabinet must reflect the boldness of this plan and the seriousness with which she means to pursue it. It is time she let go of the driftwood and opportunists in her official family. Most of all, it is time we all stopped thinking of the presidency beyond 2004.

Every nation today that calls itself modern has definite and coherent contingency plans for weathering the global crisis. We have none. We spend all our time in petty bickering and political posturing. We try to solve real problems by increasing media projection instead of seriously studying them. Our low tolerance for careful planning echoes our penchant for dramatic upheavals. This is why when we find ourselves in a rut, we can think of relief only in terms of people power, or martial law, or a coup. This mind-set, as we know by now, does not help us grow into a stable and self-confident nation.

Some sectors of civil society are reported to be searching for an alternative to Gloria in 2004. Their frustration is understandable, but it is not the right response to a problem that is bigger than the presidency. The situation we face is grave enough to justify focusing on what we can do together now as one nation while maintaining a moratorium on political antagonism.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Does Bush have the will to win?

COMMENTARY

Art Villasanta

AS they hunt down al-Qaida terrorists and Taliban militia in Afghanistan, the men of America's special operations forces labor under the ghosts of past failures inflicted on them by their irresolute presidents.

Recent operations by America's fighting elite, specifically the US Army Rangers, Delta Force and the US Navy SEALs, have been dogged by the almost obsessive need of American politicians to win on the battlefield without or with minimal losses. It is a mind-set akin to holding the opposing side scoreless in an NBA basketball game. And it won't happen.

The will to war of an American president has not been tested since 1993 when it wilted after a single, bloody encounter in Mogadishu, Somalia. The gory "Battle of Mogadishu" from Oct. 3 to 4, 1993 is a firefight remembered more as a disaster for America because of the high casualties suffered by the US Army Rangers and by the Special Operations Force Detachment—Delta (or Delta Force).

In Mogadishu, a successful helicopter raid to arrest leaders of Muslim warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid turned into a bloody battle when the SOF were suddenly attacked by thousands of Aidid's militiamen and supporters. Fighting alone, 140 Rangers and Deltas withstood Somali attacks for 17 hours, killing and wounding over 1,000 Somali combatants before being rescued by a United Nations' force consisting of Malaysians, Pakistanis and the US 10th Mountain Division.

SOF losses, however, were severe: 24 dead (including six Deltas) and 78 wounded. In addition, two Blackhawk helicopters were shot down and three damaged by Somali rocket propelled grenades.

While an incredible feat of arms for the Rangers and Delta Force, the Battle of Mogadishu is generally recalled by Americans as that horrible spectacle on TV of dead and half-naked Rangers being dragged like butchered animals through dusty alleys by gloating Somali mobs.

It is a grisly image resurrected by the Taliban, who vow to inflict the same dishonor on dead American soldiers.

In March 1994, the outcry of the American public against further involvement in Somalia following the Mogadishu fight forced then President Bill Clinton to abandon the UN-led operation providing humanitarian aid to famine stricken Somalia.

Mogadishu unduly damaged the reputation of America's SOF, a blemish that remains to this day. It also forcefully illustrated the observation of British military thinker Basil Liddell Hart that a battle is won or lost in the mind of an army's commander.

It was also a lack of political will—battered by widespread protests and war weariness—that led to America's greatest military humiliation of the 20th century: the abandonment and loss of South Vietnam in 1975.

The American-led campaign in Afghanistan runs the real risk of becoming a bloody, drawn-out struggle. With this comes the danger of heavy American losses in one engagement or cumulatively over a period of time. In either case, the will to war of George W. Bush will be severely tested, raising the question: Will he crumple under the weight of dead American soldiers and civilians? Or will he stubbornly uphold the aims of Operation Enduring Freedom?

The ground campaign in Afghanistan is only beginning but it is certain that the demands of this conflict on America's SOF will be immense.

The United States only has some 50,000 active and reserve SOF personnel. On a fraction of this small elite force plus the 10,000 men of the US 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), less than a thousand British and Australian commandos and some US Marine battalions will initially fall the brunt of rooting out entrenched al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in their home soil. Allied fighting men now also face the danger of suffering casualties from enemy chemical and biological weapons, as well.

The Taliban boasts of being able to rally 100,000 combatants, but even if only half this number were available, American and Allied SOF units will remain numerically inferior. Qualitative superiority in fighting efficiency and technology will not compensate for a sad lack of numbers, and past wars have proven the truth of the old military axiom that, on the battlefield, "Only numbers annihilate." Afghanistan will not be an exception to this rule.

US military leaders have said that its Afghan campaign will consist of lightning airborne raids and small unit actions, preferably launched at night to take advantage of their superior night fighting technology. And, of course, all these raids will be covered by overwhelming American airpower.

It is, however, a strategy that promises unremitting casualties unless America's military leaders can figure out ways to reintroduce surprise and cunning into their planning instead of delivering raid after raid against dispersed al-Qaida and Taliban strongholds.

Parachute assaults and helicopter raids carry the potential for high losses as attackers are exceptionally vulnerable at the start of the attack. America's tragic helicopter assaults in Vietnam such as "Operation Albany" and the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu despite their superior air power reveal the dangers confronting airborne units when faced by alert and determined opposition.

Should the conflict on Afghan soil turn into a battle of attrition, as it may well become, it is inevitable that regular US infantry and armored divisions will take to the field. It will escalate a campaign against terrorism into a war, and will invite inevitable parallels to Vietnam.

The SOF of America and the civilized world cannot win the campaign in Afghanistan alone. They must be aided by the regular armed services. America's limited numbers of SOF preclude these units from conducting sustained field operations, for which they are not suited.

Only a lucky SOF or CIA coup de main such as the removal of Mullah Omar or Osama bin Laden has the potential to speed up the end to the conflict. The sudden collapse of the Taliban under the twin hammer blows of the Northern Alliance and American air power may also hasten the end.

Apart from these scenarios, however, the Afghan campaign is bound to take the predictable course of any war: it will involve months of fighting and thousands of casualties.

Among the Americans, the initial burden of the fighting in Afghanistan has fallen on the US Army's 75th Ranger Regiment (Airborne) with three Ranger battalions totaling over 2,000 men.

Described as the premier light-infantry unit of the US Army, the Rangers plan and conduct special missions in support of US policy and objectives. They were the first in combat in Afghanistan, killing over a dozen Taliban in a night raid against what was described as command and control centers. Rangers have taken part in US operations in Iran, Grenada, Panama, Iraq and Somalia. Their recent stablemates in conflict is the US 10th Mountain Division which served alongside them in Somalia

It also remains to be seen if America's military leaders have implemented any of the lessons from Mogadishu. Probably the most important of these is the futility of sending elite units into battle unsupported by other combat arms. Without effective support, highly trained and expensively equipped elite units become mere cannon fodder vulnerable to large numbers of half-trained thugs armed with automatic weapons. Mogadishu proved this point all too painfully.

Military analysts say that a tragic combination of bad planning, faulty reconnaissance, political interference and command lapses were the principal reasons for the reverses suffered by America's military elite since World War II.

In the end, the world's success in the SOF-led war against terrorism will probably boil down to George W. Bush's willingness to take increasing American and Allied casualties and occasional battlefield defeats. The civilized world can help steel Bush's resolve by remaining steadfast in its commitment to stand by its fighting men no matter what the cost in civilian and military lives.

Art Villasanta writes about telecommunications for Asian publications. He is writing a book about the Philippines in the Korean War and created a website for Filipino Korean War veterans at www.geocities.com/peftok.

TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

SCALING THE NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUMMIT:

What is the most important issue ?

THE POLITICAL and economic landscape has changed dramatically since Sept. 11. Many of the assumptions held before the terrorist strikes altered the New York skyline have collapsed into irrelevance. And yet, for the Philippines, many of the problems remain the same. The result has been a dangerous mix of the familiar (e.g., corruption) and the uncharted (e.g., narco-politics in a time of war).

To forge a renewed sense of national purpose, the Administration will convene a National Socio-Economic Summit on Nov. 26. The plan is simple enough: to gather the various sectors together and reach a consensus—if not on a national plan of action, then at least on a national short-list of priorities. This week and next, we ask various sectoral leaders to simplify their arguments and choose the single most important issue we face today.

Peace and order problems

BY MIGUEL B. VARELA
President, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

I STRONGLY believe that the single most important issue in the upcoming National Socio-Economic Summit is peace and order. Undeniably, the state of the country's peace and order has a pervasive effect on the economic, social and political development of the country. As such, it is this concern that the government should address first.

We in the business sector feel that the country's current peace and order situation has worsened, as evidenced by the increasing number of kidnap-for-ransom incidents involving both foreign and local nationals as well as the enduring Abu Sayyaf problem in the South. Both have effectively held the development of our country hostage.

The primary victims of the country's deteriorating peace and order situation will ultimately be the country's poor. With the "political security risk" label hanging over our heads, potential local and international investors have effectively been held at bay, with detrimental consequences. I must emphasize that any government initiative to spearhead development will be thwarted if the peace and order situation is not effectively addressed.

The ability of the President to resolve the pressing kidnapping issue and the Abu Sayyaf problem will not only demonstrate the strength or weakness of our government in dealing with criminal elements, but more importantly, the government's ability to lay the much-needed groundwork for a development program to succeed in the country.

Moreover, critical in any development program is the need to generate jobs for the population, a reality that can only be realized if a conducive environment for business is established. As expressed by the President in her speech during the 27th Philippine Business Conference, the government should be responsible for ensuring this, whilst the business sector should be left to take care of business.

In the end, I would like to emphasize that we have the utmost belief in the President's ability to guide our country during these challenging times, and likewise we shall not falter in our responsibility to work in concert with the government to lift the country from the trenches of economic despair.

Which problem should we pay attention to first?

Backgrounder

THE SEPTEMBER 11 attacks have given rise to new risk and uncertainty that darkened the prospects for the world economy, even raising the likelihood of a global recession. In the US, the loss of consumer and business confidence in the immediate term was discernible. As a result, world economic recovery may be delayed, according to many analysts, possibly to the latter part of 2002.

Such a delay could have telling impact on the Philippine economy. A continuing weakness in the world economy, for instance, exerts downward pressure on commodity prices, and could further depress export receipts. In addition, tourism, airline and airport revenues are adversely affected by fear (of) travel. Meanwhile, financial markets may cave in to upward pressure on interest rates, making debt financing more burdensome.

The prevailing risk and uncertainty is unprecedented in the economic history of the Philippines and of the world. It clearly calls for a concerted action on the part of our national and local leaders, households, business, and civil society. The main task, and it is everyone's responsibility, is to instill confidence and security, while strengthening the forces for peace and broad-based prosperity.

Over the past 15 years, the Philippines has been pursuing a number of reform measures designed to modernize its economy and society. These reforms have served the country well in withstanding shocks, whether internal and external, the latest of which were the Asian financial crisis set off in 1997 and the global decline in demand for electronics in 2001.

The September 11 attacks in the US left the productive capacity of the economy intact. At the same time, domestic demand has remained robust. With unity and determination, the country will be able to weather the shocks and any fallout from the recent terrorist attacks in the US. The *National Socio-Economic Summit of 2001* is aimed at forging a shared action agenda that will address the challenges of the times.

Excerpted from official briefing papers provided by the office of Sec. Dante Canlas of the National Economic Development Authority

A sense of complacency

BY RAUL T. CONCEPCION
President, Federation of Philippine Industries
Chairman, Consumer and Oil Price Watch

FIRST, this summit cannot be business as usual. It cannot be the usual conference attended by the business community.

Second, we are in a crisis, the worst since World War II. We are talking about issues that have been around for 12 to 15 years. Therefore, this summit should address these concerns. When we propose solutions, what guarantee do we have that (under this administration) these things will happen?

Third, we must ask ourselves: Are we doing this (merely) to please the Administration? Or because we really want to solve these problems?

I am not a crusader, but I get so frustrated … I'm not trying to be Don Quixote here. We should aim for small, simple successes.

I urge a return to the basics of good government, honest work and civic duty as a short- *and* long-term solution to the economic crisis besetting the country and the impending global recession.

Why in the last 50 years have we not gotten our act together? The answer is simple—graft in government, rampant cronyism, apathy on the part of the people, and a predisposition to graft rather than honest work.

Graft is the main reason why our infrastructure is so poor, why our roads, irrigation projects and power facilities are so inadequate and expensive compared with the first-class infrastructure of our Asean neighbors.

Unless we solve the fundamental issue of graft and apathy, we cannot get our act together and we cannot get out of the economic quagmire we are in now.

We have to reflect that the solution to our economic problems does not lie solely with the Executive and Legislative branches and the Supreme Court, but with the people. We have to go to the fundamental basis of our political system. The people have to be more pro-active and demand more from their government. The people have to exercise their civic duty.

Therefore, the question now is: "How do we work as a people to focus on the national interest? How do we make the national interest triumph over sectoral and selfish interests?"

Worst crisis

The crisis we are facing today is the worst since the war. Mr. Supachai, the next Director General of the World Trade Organization, has said that he expects a global recession next year.

Unless all sectors like government, business, civil society, labor, the NGOs, the politicians and even media get their act together, we will have the herculean task of turning the economy around vis-à-vis our Asean neighbors.

I therefore propose a one-year moratorium on adversarial politics and negativism to enable all sectors of society to address the fundamental problems that prevent the country from overcoming the economic crisis and the impending global recession.

I have proposed to the Executive Committee of the National Socio-Economic Summit five issues for consideration in the pre-summit meetings which cut across all sectors, and the creation of a joint government and private sector task force with a six-month life span. These are:

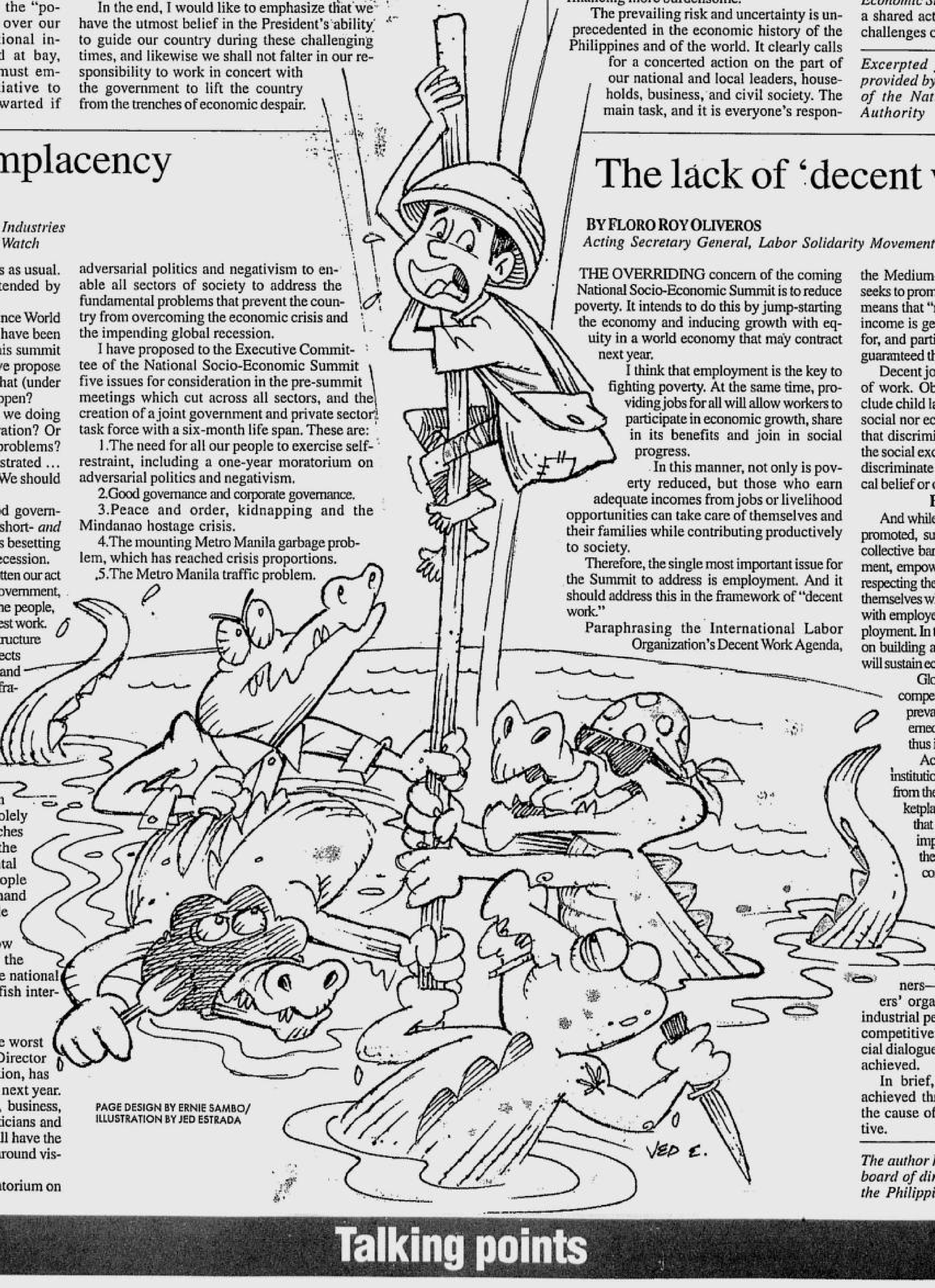
1.The need for all our people to exercise self-restraint, including a one-year moratorium on adversarial politics and negativism.

2.Good governance and corporate governance.

3.Peace and order, kidnapping and the Mindanao hostage crisis.

4.The mounting Metro Manila garbage problem, which has reached crisis proportions.

5.The Metro Manila traffic problem.



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The lack of 'decent work'

BY FLORO ROY OLIVEROS
Acting Secretary General, Labor Solidarity Movement

THE OVERRIDING concern of the coming National Socio-Economic Summit is to reduce poverty. It intends to do this by jump-starting the economy and inducing growth with equity in a world economy that may contract next year.

I think that employment is the key to fighting poverty. At the same time, providing jobs for all will allow workers to participate in economic growth, share in its benefits and join in social progress.

In this manner, not only is poverty reduced, but those who earn adequate incomes from jobs or livelihood opportunities can take care of themselves and their families while contributing productively to society.

Therefore, the single most important issue for the Summit to address is employment. And it should address this in the framework of "decent work."

Paraphrasing the International Labor Organization's Decent Work Agenda, the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan seeks to promote decent and productive work, which means that "rights at work are protected, adequate income is generated, social protection is provided for, and participation in the democratic process is guaranteed through tripartism and social dialogue."

Decent jobs for all does not mean just any type of work. Obviously, generating jobs should exclude child labor and slavery. Also, there is neither social nor economic value-added in creating jobs that discriminate against women or that result in the social exclusion of indigenous peoples or which discriminate on the basis of one's religion or political belief or organizational affiliation.

Empowered workers

And while at work, workers' rights will have to be promoted, such as freedom of association and free collective bargaining. Together with having employment, empowering workers at their work places and respecting their rights will enable them to take care of themselves while working productively, by negotiating with employers the terms and conditions of their employment. In this manner, government is freed to focus on building a better environment for investment that will sustain economic growth while promoting equity.

Globalization results in extreme forms of market competition. The objective of market players is to prevail over competitors. The market is governed by greed: the greed for profit. The market thus is no place to look for social justice.

According to George Soros, we need social institutions to protect the vulnerable social sectors from the greed and avarice that dominate the marketplace. It is why social and political institutions that promote social justice and democracy are important. The faster the economy globalizes, the more urgent strong social institutions become.

It is why institutionalized social protection is also necessary. Without this, globalization and competition lead to a "race to the bottom."

Finally, the social partners—government, employers' and workers' organizations—need to assure dynamic industrial peace and harmony while working for competitiveness and improved productivity. Social dialogue is a mechanism by which this can be achieved.

In brief, socio-economic progress can be achieved through decent work. Less than this, the cause of Osama bin Laden becomes attractive.

The author has been appointed a member of the board of directors of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Talking points

IT IS instructive to note the difference in assumptions underpinning the statements of Atty. Varela and Mr. Concepcion. In the former, the venerable principle known as division of labor is alive and kicking. The "government should be responsible for ensuring this (creating an environment conducive to doing business), whilst the business sector should be left to take care of business."

Different roles, different responsibilities.

In the latter, what used to be called a matrix arrangement in the 1980s and (tongue firmly in cheek) multitasking in the 1990s is the operative principle: "We have to reflect that the solution to our economic problems does not lie solely with the Executive and Legislative branches and the Supreme Court, but with the people … The people have to be more pro-active and demand more from their government."

The idea, if I understand it correctly, is straight out of John Donne, but with a twist. We shouldn't merely ask for whom the bell tolls; as Varela clearly implies, it tolls for you and me. What Concepcion suggests is that we should also realize that there's really no one to pull the heavy rope and ring the bell but ourselves.

The argument of Mr. Oliveros is in this second mode. The "social partners—government, employers' and workers' organizations—need to assure dynamic industrial peace and harmony while working for competitiveness and improved productivity," he writes, convincingly, of the compelling need to provide "decent work" to anyone who needed it. "Social dialogue is a mechanism by which this can be achieved."

We can understand the coming Summit as one such social dialogue, only writ large.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

2nd anthrax-laced letter discovered in US Congress

WASHINGTON—Investigators found a letter Friday addressed to Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, which the FBI said appeared to contain anthrax. It would be the second letter bearing the deadly germ known to have been sent to Capitol Hill.

The contaminated letter was postmarked Oct. 9 from Trenton, New Jersey, as was the one sent to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and contains similar handwriting, investigators said. One law-enforcement official said the return address—a fourth-grade class at a nonexistent school in New Jersey—also was the same.

Four people, including two Washington postal workers, have died from inhaled anthrax. But until Friday, only one letter carrying the germ inside the envelope had been found in Washington.

The letter was discovered Friday afternoon in a batch of segregated mail away from Congress, said Susan Neely, speaking for the Office of Homeland Security. She said the letter had not sickened anyone.

Investigators have said for weeks that there may be another anthrax-tainted letter. They have been hunting through unopened mail that has been under quarantine since postal workers were diagnosed with inhaled anthrax.

Although terrorism from abroad has not been ruled out, officials believe the anthrax attacks came from someone in the United States. However, they have not discovered the source of the letters. The second letter sent to a high-profile Democrat adds to the thin body of evidence.

"FBI and US Postal Service investigators examining sequestered congressional mail have another letter which appears to contain anthrax," the FBI said in a statement Friday night.

The letter to Leahy, who is chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, "appears in every respect to be similar to the other anthrax-laced letters," the FBI said. *AP*

AN AFGHAN prays in the ruins of his village on the first day of Ramadan 20 km north of Kabul Nov. 16. The village of Mirbachakut was held by the Taliban until last Tuesday when Northern Alliance forces pushed Taliban forces south of Kabul. RETUERS

Algerian implicated in LA bomb plot charged

NEW YORK—An Algerian man has been charged with helping a terrorist trained by Osama bin Laden in the failed plot to bomb Los Angeles International Airport during millennium celebrations.

US authorities on Thursday served Samir Ati Mohamed, 32, with an extradition warrant. Canadian authorities said Mohamed had been in custody in Vancouver on alleged immigration violations since July.

Authorities filed charges against Mohamed under seal last month. A criminal complaint made public Friday accuses him of trying to get weapons for Ahmed Ressam so Ressam could raise money for the Los Angeles attack by robbing banks.

The plot was foiled when Ressam—who trained in Bin Laden-financed terrorist camps in Afghanistan—was arrested entering the country in late 1999 with a trunkload of explosives. He pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against other terrorism suspects in hopes of reducing a potential 130-year sentence.

Mohamed allegedly agreed "to get Ressam two hand grenades and a machine gun with a silencer," according to an FBI affidavit. The complaint also accuses him of working with another man, Mokhtar Haouari, to obtain "a credit card in an alias for Ressam's use in connection with his planned terrorist operation and 'jihad' work."

Mohamed ended up providing a 9mm semiautomatic pistol with a silencer, knowing Ressam intended a terrorist attack in the United States, court papers said. Ressam used the pistol in an August 1999 holdup attempt at a Montreal currency exchange, papers said.

The complaint charges Mohamed with two counts of conspiring to commit international terrorism. If convicted, he could receive life in prison.

Ressam became the key witness in a New York trial at which Haouari was convicted of participating in the same plot. Ressam told the court he and Mohamed talked about "blowing up a neighborhood in Canada where there was an Israeli interest."

Mohamed suggested that any bomb "be implanted in a gasoline truck for a larger and more serious explosion," Ressam testified.

He also said Mohamed and some friends wanted to start their own training camp in Afghanistan.

Haouari, who faces up to 50 years in prison, had been scheduled for sentencing this month. A judge postponed the sentencing until Dec. 17 after prosecutors revealed Ressam had failed to disclose the Montreal robbery attempt—information that the defense could have used to attack his credibility. Haouari's lawyer has said he will seek a new trial.

No sentencing date for Ressam has been set. *AP*

UN increases food supplies to Afghanistan

TERMEZ, Uzbekistan—The United Nations moved another 200 metric tons of food to Afghanistan Friday, part of an effort to increase supplies in the country as winter approaches.

The United Nations estimates that some 3 million Afghans depend on food aid. The area most in need is the north of the country, which borders Uzbekistan.

A barge filled with 200 metric tons of wheat flour from the World Food Program left the Uzbek port of Termez on Friday for the Afghan port of Hairaton, 18 km upstream, WFP spokesperson Michael Huggins said. It was the third barge to depart in as many days.

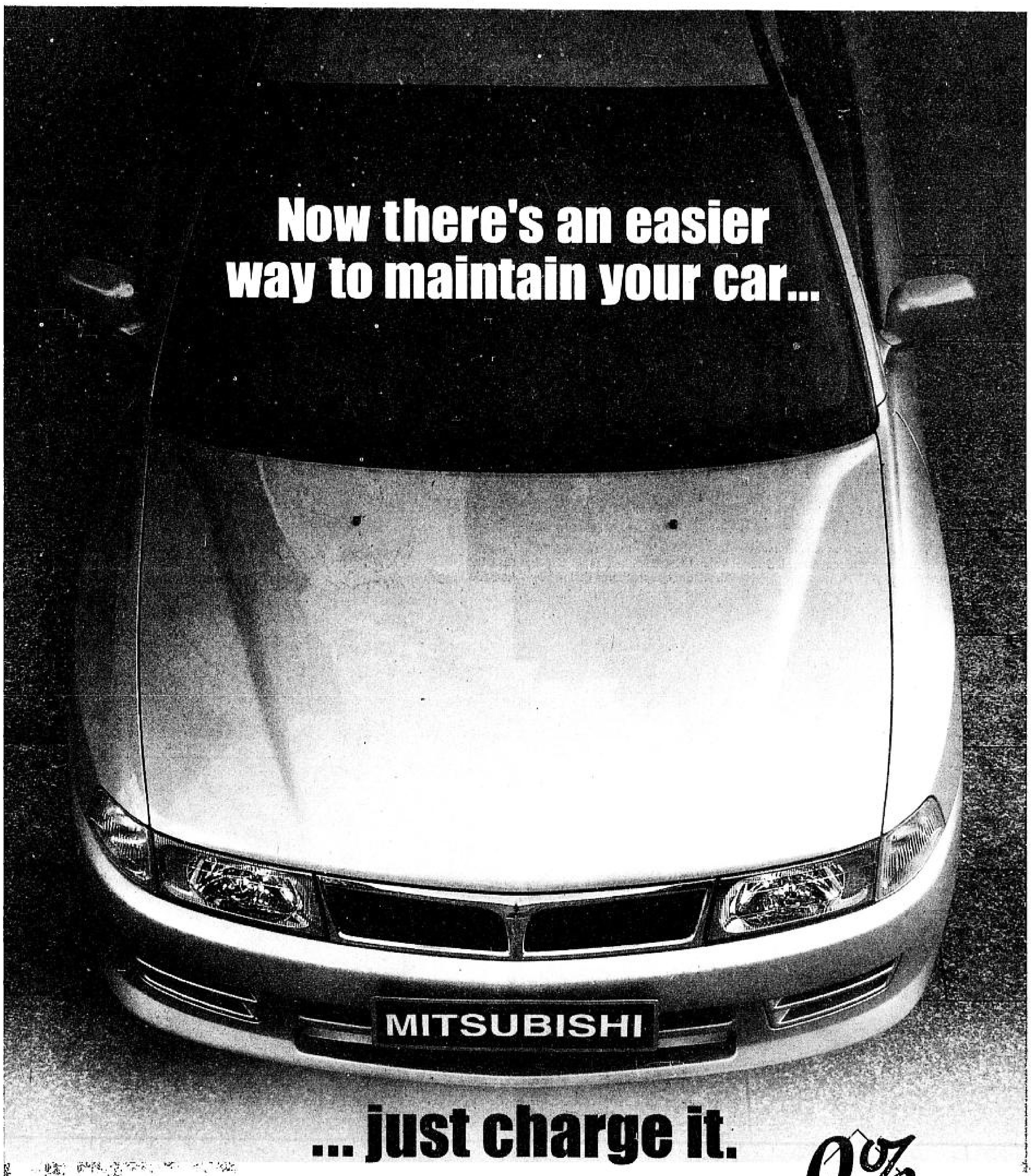
The WFP is hoping to move at least one barge of food a day. Unicef says it plans to move two barges a week filled with blankets, shoes, winter coats and food aid to Afghanistan.

The food aid began almost a week after fighters of the Northern Alliance drove the Taliban from northern Afghanistan.

The barge traffic was repeatedly delayed amid reports of lawlessness and looting in the northern areas and in Mazar-e-Sharif, the main city in northern Afghanistan.

Aid workers from the United Nations and from other groups are beginning to move back to northern Afghanistan.

Aid workers say it is crucial that supplies are in place before the winter snow closes roads in parts of the country. *AP*



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3136, Series of 2001

CRASH IN N.Y.C.

Plane may have been damaged before it flew

NEW YORK—Neither turbulence from another jet nor pressure placed on the rudder by a desperate pilot should have been enough to snap off the tail of Flight 587, aviation experts said, raising the prospect that something was wrong with the plane before it left the ground.

"I think there was a pre-existing structural problem with the tail," said Greg Feith, a former National Transportation Safety Board investigator. "It was going to fail regardless. It just so happened the conditions were right."

The American Airlines Airbus A300 plunged into a New York neighborhood Monday, shortly after taking off from Kennedy Airport for the Dominican Republic. The crash killed all 260 people aboard and five more on the ground.

The cause of the crash has not been determined, but investigators have focused on the jetliner's tail assembly, which came off sometime before the crash.

The Federal Aviation Administration on Friday ordered airlines to immediately inspect the tail assemblies of their Airbus A300-600 and A310 planes. American and two cargo carriers, FedEx and United Parcel Service, have about 135 of the French-made jets in their fleets.

The FAA said no conclusions have been reached about whether the tail was related to the accident, but called the inspections a "prudent" move.

NTSB Chair Marion Blakey said the frantic efforts of the pilots aboard Flight 587 to save their plane also should provide clues to what went wrong.

"We do know, just from what we can see on the flight data recorder, that the pilots were trying to actively fly that plane out of the problem," Blakey said, cautioning that this does not imply pilot error. Investigators have already suggested the pilots wouldn't have known the tail fin was missing.

"It seems to me this was a very extraordinary crash. In fact, we don't have a parallel," Blakey said before she and other investigators left New York for Washington, where the inquiry will continue for months.

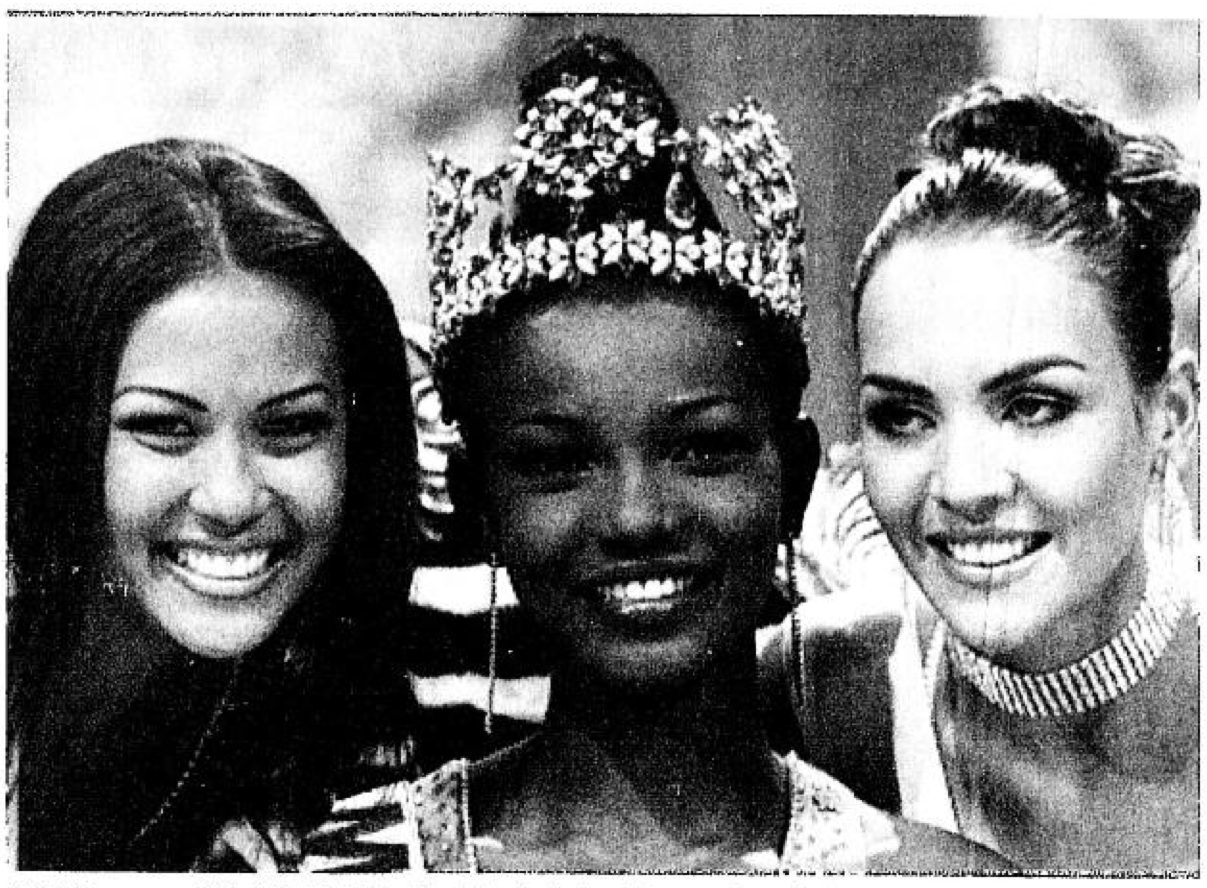
Investigators say Flight 587 shook violently from side to side after encountering two wakes generated by a Japan Air Lines 747 that took off about two minutes earlier from the same runway at Kennedy.

Because of its size and weight, the four-engine 747 generates heavy turbulence.

While Flight 587 was more than six kilometers behind the JAL jumbo jet, as required by FAA regulations, NTSB spokesperson Keith Holloway said the agency was looking at whether to suggest keeping planes farther apart, since wakes dissipate over distance.

Experts suggested more distance wasn't needed in this case.

"The wake vortex of a 747 should not bring down an aircraft," said Tom Ellis, a spokesperson for the Nolan Law Group, a Chicago firm that represents victims of airline accidents. *AP*



NEWLY crowned Miss World 2001, Miss Nigeria Agbani Darego (center), 18, runner up Miss Aruba Zizi Lee 19 (left) and second runner up Miss Scotland Juliet-Jane Horne, 18, pose at the end of the Miss World competition at Sun City west of Johannesburg Nov. 16. From a field of 93 contestants, Darego took first place to be the first black African woman to take the title in the competition since 1974. REUTERS

Nigerian student wins Miss World

SUN CITY, South Africa—Agbani Darego of Nigeria won the 2001 Miss World contest Friday at the Sun City resort in South Africa, saying the joy of victory was "just indescribable."

Darego, an 18-year-old computer science student, tall, athletically built, and with shoulder-length hair, is a hiker, a dancer, and has the ambition to become a supermodel.

Runners-up at the luxury casino retreat in the South African bush, 180 km northeast of Johannesburg, were Miss Aruba, Zerelda Lee, a 19-year-old law student (second), and Miss Scotland, Juilet-Jane Horne, an 18-year-old media student (third).

Darego won a cash prize of $100,000, plus gifts valued at $150,000, and will travel the world over the next year.

Television viewers took part in the voting for the first time, directed to local telephone numbers from the Miss World website.

Their votes—with each country given equal weighting—counted toward the first winnowing-out: the viewers and the jury at Sun City were each given 50 percent of the vote for the first 10 finalists out of the 96 contestants.

After that, the jury decided.

Bookies had made Miss USA, Carrie Ann Stroup, the favorite, followed by Miss Chile, Christianne Balmeli, but neither figured in the final 10.

About 3,000 spectators viewed the event live inside the Sun City Superbowl, while an estimated 1.2 billion others watched it on television around the world.

"I am happy and excited. The joy of winning is just indescribable, and that's all I can say," Miss World said minutes after the crowning, before being whisked away by bodyguards.

She was crowned by the previous winner of the competition, Miss India, Priyanka Chopra, who won in London last year.

It is the fourth time a contestant from Africa has won the competition. It started in 1951, which means that the early beauty queens are now about 70 years' old. *AFP*

Kosovo self-rule election begins

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia—The people of Kosovo vote on Saturday in the first general elections since the province was placed under UN administration in 1999 after Nato air strikes drove out the forces of then Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic.

More than 1.25 million people are eligible to cast ballots when the polls open at 7 a.m. to elect a 120-member parliament to run the province for three years together with UN officials and a Nato-led peacekeeping force.

The vote is the result of a UN Security Council resolution in June 1999 that authorized "substantial autonomy" for the province in southern Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic, and the deployment of a Nato-led peacekeeping force, KFOR.

The resolution followed an 11-week Nato bombardment of Yugoslavia that forced Milosevic to end a crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

The Albanians, who make up about 90 percent of Kosovo's two million residents, view the election as the first step toward eventual independence for the province from Yugoslavia.

But the Serbs, who form about five percent of the Kosovo population, have voiced reluctance to vote, demanding the UN first improve their security and living conditions and aid the return of almost 200,000 non-Albanians who have fled the province in fear of attacks by Albanians.

Many Serbs also believe that by voting they would be lending legitimacy to an Albanian-dominated parliament they fear could unilaterally declare independence from the rest of Yugoslavia.

Officials of the UN Mission in Kosovo, which will remain the ultimate authority in the province, have repeatedly emphasized that the new assembly will never be allowed to take such a step. *AFP*

10,000 mourners bury Irian Jaya independence leader

A PAPUAN holds the Morning Star independence flag during the funeral in Sentani, West Papua, Nov. 17 for prominent independence leader Theys Eluay, whose death has heightened tension in Indonesia's vast eastern province of Papua. REUTERS

SENTANI, Indonesia—About 10,000 people, some delirious with grief, gathered peacefully Saturday for the funeral of Irian Jaya independence leader Theys Hiyo Eluay, who died mysteriously last week.

Mourners staged a two-hundred meter procession from Eluay's home, some 50 km west of the provincial capital Jayapura, to a soccer field where the charismatic leader was buried.

The emotional crowds sang religious hymns as Eluay's body was laid to rest in the field, which has been redesignated a "Papuan Heroes" cemetery.

Members of the pro-independence Papua Task Force militia carried Eluay's coffin, which was draped in the secessionist Morning Star flag. A tribal rite was performed before the procession.

Papua is the name that independence activists use for Indonesia's easternmost province, the scene of sporadic separatist unrest for decades.

In his funeral message, the deputy chief of the Presidium, Tom Beanal, called on the United Nations to hold a referendum on self-determination in Irian Jaya.

Eluay, 64, who was the chieftain of the Sentani tribe, went missing on his way home on Sept. 10 from a military ceremony. His driver, who is still missing, told the family in a brief telephone call that they had been abducted by a group of non-Irianese.

Eluay's body was found the following day in his crashed car. The face was darkened and the tongue was sticking out.

The national police have described the death as "unnatural" and sent investigators to the remote province. Rights groups have described the death as an assassination. *AFP*

World leaders share vision of new order without terror

UNITED NATIONS—The world's leaders came here to talk about a new world order after the terrorist attacks in the United States left them pondering what went wrong to allow such destruction to happen.

They offered some answers: A Mideast conflict that dragged on for too long, trade rules that wound up punishing the little guy, injustice left to fuel extremism.

And they found hope: They signed treaties to fight terrorism, from clamping down on the money that funds terrorists to curbing trafficking in illicit arms, and they realized how important it is to work together.

"We find that the concept of coalition is a good thing," French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine told a press briefing. "We hope eventually that we can extend the coalition against terrorism and have a coalition" to tackle other "major problems across the world."

Forty-two heads of state and government, nine deputy prime ministers and 96 foreign ministers spoke during the UN General Assembly's weeklong, annual high-level debate, which ended Friday.

US President George W. Bush came here to shore up support for his coalition against terrorism.

"Every nation has a stake in this cause," Bush said. "As we meet, the terrorists are planning more murder, perhaps in my country—or perhaps in yours."

The leaders condemned the Sept. 11 attacks and urged concerted efforts to fight terrorism. A few countries, including Iraq and Cuba, lashed out at the attacks on Afghanistan, saying they punish innocent civilians.

The leaders got a convenient forum to discuss how to fill the power vacuum in Afghanistan after the Taliban fled Kabul Tuesday following punishing US air strikes—something they weren't quite ready for.

"All ethnic groups must be equally represented," Ravan Farhadi, the UN ambassador representing the Afghan administration that the Taliban defeated five years ago, told the 189-member assembly Wednesday. But so far, the victorious Northern Alliance has shown no sign of sharing power.

The leaders disagreed on how to define terrorism—an old issue that has taken on new significance. *AP*

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Singapore may okay stem cell research

SINGAPORE—An ethics panel in Singapore said on Saturday it approved the use of embryos no more than fourteen days old for embryonic stem cell research, so bringing the citystate in line with practice in countries like Britain.

Singapore has poured at least $1.64 billion into boosting research and seeding start-ups in its fledgling life sciences industry but has no regulations so far.

Human embryos younger than a fortnight had no pain or sentience, the Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC) said, since a primitive streak that would form the nervous system would only appear on the 14th day.

"While the BAC recognizes the special status of an embryo as a potential human being, it accepts that it is justified to use early embryos, not more than 14 days old, for serious research," Richard Magnus, chair of the BAC's subcommittee on human stem cell research, told reporters.

An ethical debate rages internationally over the use of human embryos in stem cell research, which involves destroying the embryos to extract master cells that scientists believe can provide repair kits for cells damaged by incurable diseases.

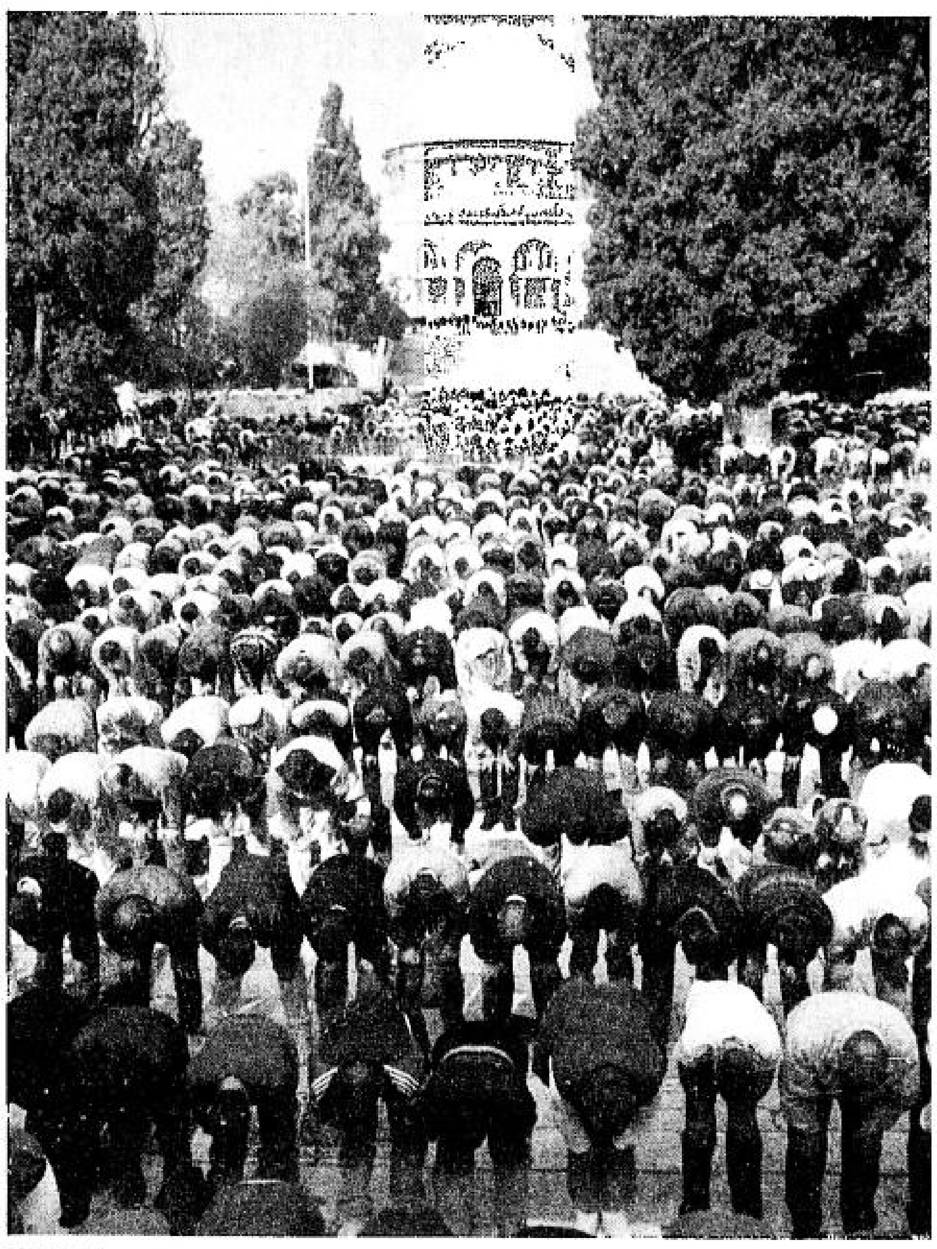
BAC Chair Lim Pin said the committee chose to take a "moderate position," which represents the majority viewpoint, judging by public feedback and after studying regulations adopted around the globe.

A group of Roman Catholic doctors in Singapore staged a prayer vigil in August to protest against the use of human embryos in research.

Separately, Lim said the BAC stood against human reproductive cloning but would support therapeutic cloning—creating embryonic clones to get stem cells for potential disease treatments—on a case-by-case basis with the consent of the donors and under appropriate government supervision.

Lim said BAC, set up by the Singapore government, will recommend that the government set up a full-time regulatory body, to be formed early next year.

The Singapore government has a stake in Australia-based firm ES Cell International, which is emerging as a major player in the production and supply of embryonic stem cells for research. *Reuters*



MUSLIM worshippers, backdropped by the Dome of the Rock mosque, pray on the first day of Ramadan in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in east Jerusalem's Old City, Nov. 16. The compound, known to Muslims as Haram as-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, and to Jews as the Temple Mount, site of the biblical temples, is the most sensitive spot in the Israel-Palestinian conflict. AFP

Israel coalition faces new strains; violence flares up

JERUSALEM—Israel's ruling coalition faced new strains on Friday when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres expressed support for Palestinian statehood and violence flared in the West Bank following Muslim prayers for Ramadan.

Right-wingers put pressure on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to dismiss Peres for telling the United Nations General Assembly that Israelis backed Palestinian independence—even as a bloody uprising against Israeli occupation raged on.

In the latest clashes in the 13-month-old conflict, Israeli soldiers fired teargas and rubber bullets at rock-throwing Palestinian protesters in the West Bank city of Ramallah after the first Friday prayers for the holy month of Ramadan.

Several Palestinians were wounded in the confrontations near an Israeli Army checkpoint. The Israeli Army later reported sporadic Palestinian gun and hand grenade attacks near Nablus in the West Bank, in Gaza and close to the border with Egypt.

At least three Palestinians were injured in scuffles that broke out when police barred some Palestinians from attending prayers in Jerusalem's Old City, a flashpoint of the uprising.

The mufti of Jerusalem, the Palestinians' highest-ranking Muslim cleric, accused Israel of "provocation" for heavy deployment of security forces near the city's Al-Aqsa mosque.

An estimated 40,000 worshippers crowded into the Old City for Ramadan prayers, but police prevented males under the age of 30 from attending for what they said were security reasons.

Peres' speech in New York on Thursday stoked new controversy and underlined divisions over Israel's handling of a conflict in which at least 705 Palestinians and 188 Israelis have been killed. Both Israel and the Palestinians are under international pressure to resume peace talks.

Peres has endorsed a Palestinian state in the past, but his speech on Thursday marked the first time he or any other Israeli official had made such remarks during a showcase speech at the United Nations.

The dovish foreign minister told UN delegates: "Although this is not yet a formal policy of the government of Israel, there is support for Palestinian independence, support for a Palestinian state."

An aide to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Peres' comments were "meaningless" because they did not reflect the official policy of Sharon's administration.

"Peres' statement is meant to contain the fears of the international community about Sharon's policy against the Palestinians," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman.

Sharon did not immediately comment on Peres' speech. But Peres' remarks incensed some right-wing members of Sharon's fractious coalition.

Israel radio quoted Danny Naveh, a minister without portfolio and a member of Sharon's right-wing Likud party, as saying Peres "had no mandate to make such a declaration."

Naveh called the speech a "grave diplomatic mistake" when Israel was "in the midst of a harsh terror campaign against us."

Benny Elon, an ultra-nationalist Cabinet minister, warned that his seven-member National Union faction could quit the government if Peres was not fired.

Sharon himself has made public comments envisaging a demilitarized Palestinian state that falls far short of Palestinian aspirations.

President George W. Bush recently endorsed a Palestinian state as part of a US effort to keep Arab nations on board its anti-terror coalition but has called on Arafat to arrest more militants accused of carrying out attacks on Israelis. *Reuters*

Dead Sea Scrolls finally published in full

NEW YORK—The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered with great fanfare in the late 1940s, have finally been published in their entirety, after decades of toil, controversy and scandal.

"It's the greatest publication effort of the 20th century, there's no doubt about it," Jacob Fisch, executive director of the Friends of the Israel Antiquities Authority, Friday said.

The scrolls, which have provided archeologists and religious scholars new ways of looking at the Hebrew Bible and the Jewish world of Jesus, have been produced in 37 large tomes by the Oxford University Press.

Announcing the publication at the New York Public Library on Thursday, editor in chief Emanuel Tov dedicated a special "Thanksgiving Scroll" to New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and the people of New York for "their heroism during the Sept. 11 tragedy, and in friendship, solidarity and support from Israel for the United States."

The hundreds of papyrus and leather documents, the first of which were discovered in 1947, have been surrounded by mystery and controversy ever since.

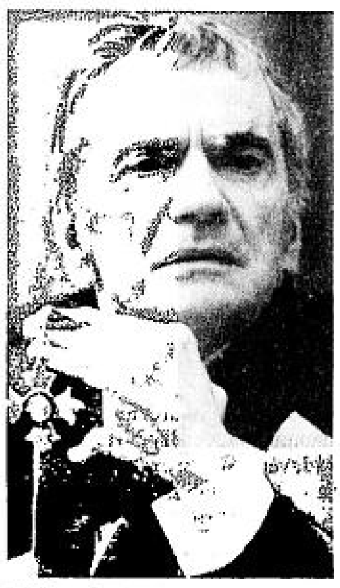
Early on, they were associated with the Essenes, an austere and mysterious Hebrew sect active from the third century BC to around 70 AD.

The improbable find in a cave near the Dead Sea by a Bedouin shepherd coincided with the birth of Israel and the absorption of Arab Palestine into Jordan, a time of political turmoil and intrigue.

Transcriptions and photographs of a first set of scrolls in relatively good condition were published quickly, confirming their antiquity and spurring the search for more.

The publication of the other more fragmented manuscripts and their translation from Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek proved a gargantuan undertaking, and an international, interdenominational team of young American, Israeli and European scholars was formed.

But work on other scrolls proved slow and controversial. *AFP*



HONORED REUTERS

British comic actor and musician Dudley Moore holds aloft his CBE, which he received during an investiture rite held by the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace Nov. 16. Moore is suffering from a rare brain condition called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

Putin still practices judo, is proud of KGB stint

BY GERALD NADLER

NEW YORK—Russian President Vladimir Putin, an expert at judo and holder of the equivalent of a black belt, said he loves "the sport tremendously" and still practices regularly.

Answering questions Thursday in a phone-in program on National Public Radio, Putin also said he was proud of his service in the KGB, and loved reading Russian classical literature.

When one caller asked Putin, a former KGB agent, whether he thought his former intelligence work helped or hindered him as president, Putin answered quickly. "It helps me," he said, adding "I can see you're surprised to hear it."

He said he engaged in international politics, "of course from a different perspective."

"I never ever regretted working with the external intelligence department of the Soviet Union," he said. "I did my duty. I served my country and I believe I did a fairly decent job at that."

"We lived," he cautioned, "in an entirely different world then—a world that is no longer here."

Letting his hair down after three days of security talks with US President George W. Bush, Putin went into some detail answering a question on how he became interested in martial arts and whether he still keeps at it.

Putin said he took up the discipline as a teenager in St. Petersburg when at 14 he began studying Sambo—a Russian acronym for self-defense without arms—a Russian wrestling technique.

After that, he said he joined a gym that was teaching judo, became what the Russians call a "master of sport" and received the equivalent of the black belt at 18.

"All my adult life I have been practicing judo, and I do love this sport tremendously," said Putin. "I think that there is more to it than just sport, I think it's also a philosophy in a way. *AP*

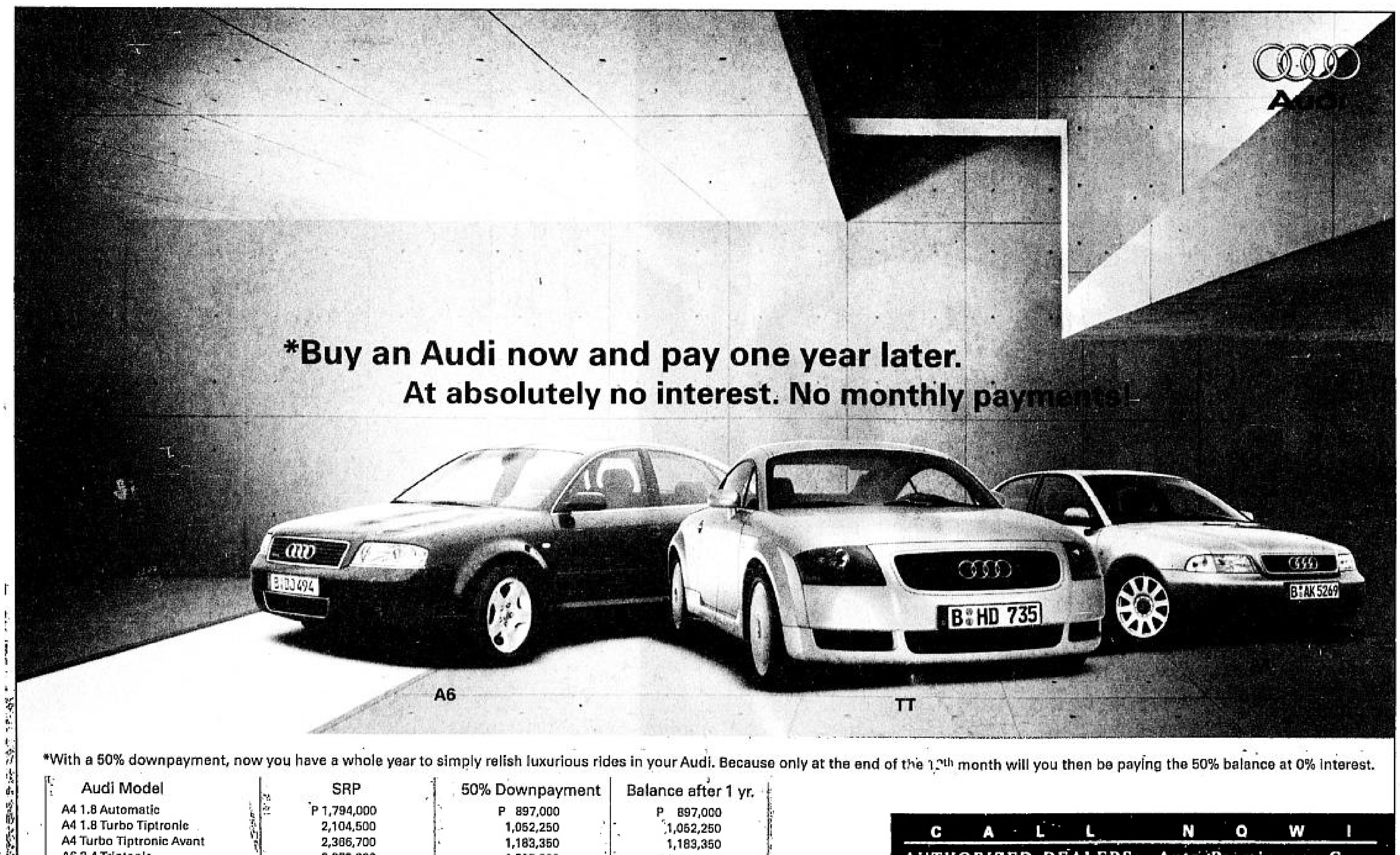
Support for Japan PM drops

TOKYO—Popular support for the Cabinet of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi fell sharply in November as respondents expressed concern over record-high joblessness and the slow pace of economic reform, a news agency reported Saturday.

Support for Koizumi's administration fell 6.7 percentage points from the previous month to 63.3 percent, the lowest level since the leader took office in April, according to a survey by Jiji Press. Disapproval rose 2.4 percentage points to 16.2 percent during the period, the highest level during the Koizumi administration.

Notably, support among voters in Koizumi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party was weakening—a sign of growing impatience with LDP factions that have resisted economic restructuring considered key to sustainable recovery, Jiji said.

The world's second-largest economy has been struggling to emerge from a stubborn slump of more than 10 years. The recent global downturn, aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, has hurt Japanese exports and corporate earnings. *AP*



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Romualdez son spurns PCGG eviction order

By Cynthia A. Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The son of Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. has been occupying a sequestered building in this city since 1996 despite an eviction order from the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

Renor Dauag, acting PCGG chief in Leyte, said Orestes "Resty" Romualdez has refused to heed the order, which was handed down by the PCGG also in 1996.

He said his office is having difficulty implementing the eviction order because Mayor Romualdez is "very powerful."

When asked to elaborate, Dauag just shook his head.

The INQUIRER went to the Greenhouse on Thursday morning but was told by the housemaid that Resty was sleeping. The INQUIRER called the Greenhouse past noon but the woman, who answered the phone, said Resty was in Manila.

The INQUIRER also went to the office of Mayor Romualdez but his staff said the mayor did not want to be interviewed.

The Greenhouse is a two-story building along Burgos and Juan Luna Streets. It is called the Greenhouse because the building is painted green.

Records at the PCGG in Leyte showed that the building was acquired by Mayor Romualdez during the administration of his brother-in-law, former President Ferdinand Marcos. The mayor is the younger brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

The PCGG sequestered the Greenhouse and ,other pieces of property of the Romualdezes in March 1986, shortly after the Marcoses were removed from power.

The others were the Sto. Niño Shrine and Heritage Museum and the People's Center and Library, both in Tacloban and Ms Marcos' residence in Barangay Olot, Tolosa town.

Dauag said a certain Judge Espina had rented the Greenhouse from the PCGG shortly after it was placed under sequestration. Resty then took over in 1996 when Espina left the building, he added.

Dauag, however, was not sure if a representative of the Romualdezes had asked the PCGG's permission to take over the sequestered property.

But he said that weeks after Resty took over, the PCGG in Manila had ordered its personnel in Tacloban to "retake" the building from Resty. The order, he added, was not heeded.

Lawyer Simeon Kempis, then PCGG representative in Leyte, and some Tacloban policemen went to the Greenhouse to serve the eviction order.

But, he said, the order was ignored as Resty refused to leave. Dauag said Resty is now living with his four housemaids in the Greenhouse.

Dauag also raised concerns on the situation of another sequestered property—the mansion of Ms Marcos in Tolosa where, he said, the PCGG experienced a "little problem."

The INQUIRER learned that Ms Marcos would stay in her old home whenever she was in Leyte, even if the property is under sequestration.

Before, Dauag said the PCGG could not just enter the mansion unless accompanied by a representative of the former first lady.

This stopped only when he provided Ms Marcos keys to her old house so she can stay in the mansion whenever she is in Leyte, he added.

But, he said, he also made sure that a PCGG representative is with Ms Marcos whenever she is in the mansion.

Dauag is also having problems with another sequestered property, the People's Center and Library, after Mayor Romualdez sued the PCGG for using the center other than its intended purpose.

On Sept. 27, the mayor filed a petition for declaratory judgement before the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 in Tacloban.

He asked the court to order Dauag to use the center as venue for cultural and educational presentations, seminars, conventions and conferences.

In his five-page complaint, Mayor Romualdez said the center should not be used as venue for baratillo sales but only for seminars, conventions, and conferences of civic groups.

The PCGG earned P2 million last year from Unitrex Bazaar and other rentals. The center is also being rented out for other social functions.

On Oct. 26, the PCGG, through its lawyer Marlu Wui filed a motion to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

Dauag, in his counter-affidavit, said the PCGG allowed the center to be rented by Unitrex "to earn income," in order to maintain the other sequestered pieces of property that are not earning.

16M Pinoys no access to potable water

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Lack of access to potable water remains one of the top health problems in the country.

In a conference on rainwater harvesting here on Nov. 7 to 8, experts said the lack of potable water and poor sanitation in rural and urban areas is blamed for the occurrence of water-borne diseases.

In his paper on water supply and sanitation, Edgar Viterbo of the Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation, said the "significant portion of the country's urban and rural population still has to be served by the public water supply and sanitation facilities."

He said 78 percent of 73 million Filipinos are served by potable water supply. In Manila, only 68 percent of 12 million residents in Metro Manila enjoy pipe water. In the rural areas, shallow and deep wells, water from streams and cisterns, provide drinking water for 86 percent of the country's population, who often suffer from water-borne diseases.

Ricarte Javelosa, Godofredo Carpio and Fely Boston, said in their paper assessing the demand for water in the country that nine urban areas in the country have "critical supply" or do not have enough water supply to meet the needs of their residents.

Lack of water supply in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Angeles, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga are often shown by low water pressure in the distribution system and rationing, especially during summer.

Javelosa is the executive director of the Presidential Task Force on Water Resource Development and Management of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. His co-authors are researchers of the water task force.

Metro Manila has a deficit of about 877 million cubic meters (MCM) per year in 1995 alone, said Javelosa. The cities of Cebu, Baguio, Davao and Cagayan de Oro had been expected to have a water deficit since 2000.

Studies from government health agencies cited by Viterbo noted that living in a household with no toilet facilities increases the risk of diarrhea by 42 percent and the risk of skin diseases by 28 percent.

Using a public or neighbor's water supply increases the risk of diarrhea by 25 percent. The risk of getting diarrhea and skin disease increases by 76 percent if a household has no toilet and a water supply.

Both Viterbo and Javelosa's group noted that amid the lack of water, watershed degradation is taking place in all regions and provinces in the country. Inefficient irrigation, wasteful urban and industrial water use, leaks along the water distribution pipes all contribute to water shortage.

Javelosa's group said over-extraction of water has also led to salt-water intrusion into the aquifers. There is also a concern of the quality of surface water polluted by agriculture chemicals and human wastes, they added.

They said lack of access to safe water blocks opportunities to social equity. They said the major challenge of the water sector is to ensure the balance of water availability or supply through distribution and proper management.

Viterbo echoed their sentiments, adding that water access is a key factor "in improving health and economic productivity and should be an essential component to alleviate poverty."

15 suspected NPA slain in encounter

DAVAO CITY—Fifteen suspected New People's Army rebels were killed while three soldiers were wounded in an encounter in Cateel, Compostela Valley on Friday.

The rebels allegedly were responsible for the burning of telecommunication facilities of four companies in Mawab town last week.

Col. Felipe Berroya, chief of the 701st Infantry battalion based in Mawab, said soldiers belonging to the 701st and 601st IB, clashed with some 150 rebels at 2:45 p.m. Friday.

Berroya said two Huey helicopters and an MG 520 attack helicopter were immediately dispatched, pounding on the rebels.

"So far this is the biggest encounter with rebels here in years," Berroya told the Agence France Presse.

The rebels, he said, were responsible for the burning of telecommunication facilities of multinational firm Dole Philippines, Philcom Telecom, Philippine Long Distance Telecommunication and Liberty Telecom.

Although admitting "some failures" in their intelligence gathering, Berroya said he was also blaming the firms for their "unwillingness" to coordinate with the authorities or report to the police and local executives, the threats coming from rebels.

He earlier said the four companies also gave a P50,000 monthly "revolutionary tax" to the rebels.

The burning reportedly stemmed from the failure of the companies to pay revolutionary tax.

Berroya said he was recommending the filing of charges against Philcom and the PLDT for their failure to coordinate the matter to the police, when the revolutionary tax was enforced on them.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AFP

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Officials in hot water for vessel escape

TABACO CITY—Officials of several maritime agencies here are in hot water because of the escape of MV Criston, a cargo vessel, which was under seize and detention order at the Tabaco port last week.

The MV Criston was a subject of "seize and detention" order by the Bureau of Customs in Manila when authorities failed to find it in the list of shipping companies in the Philippines.

The vessel shipped some 35,000 bags of smuggled rice at the international seaport here in September.

Investigators found discrepancies in the vessel's shipment declaration and papers.

On Nov. 7, the PPA based here issued a sheltering permit to MV Criston as part of its procedure during a typhoon.

Since then, the vessel has not returned.

A member of a rice smuggling syndicate, who has turned police witness, has executed an affidavit implicating these officials in the vessel's escape, alleging that thousands of pesos changed hands as grease money.

The INQUIRER has read a copy of the witness' sworn affidavit dated Nov. 12.

The witness, whose identity is being withheld, is now under police custody at Camp Simeon Ola in Legazpi City for his protection.

The witness said he turned around because of fear for his life.

The syndicate threw him out of the group despite his efforts and role as the contact person and bagman in the payoff, he said.

Worse, he learned that the group has marked him for liquidation.

The witness said he withdrew P1 million from the PCI Bank Tabaco branch and paid the following: Philippine Coast Guard, P200,000; Bureau of Customs, P200,000; Philippine Ports Authority, P50,000; Tabaco Port Cargo Corp., P20,000; Maritime Police, P20,000 and P50,000 each for four police officials.

In the affidavit, the witness accused some officials of the BoC and Coast Guard of having received the money in exchange for giving the vessel a chance to escape.

He mentioned Crisanto Sy, Coast Guard Tabaco officer-in-charge, customs officials and police, a certain Capistrano and a certain Valeriano.

The witness said he handed the P200,000, placed inside the brown envelope to Sy in a hotel here on Nov. 7.

The rest of the money was used to pay for the hotel accommodation and allowances of Manuel Alano, the ship captain who reportedly could not be found but has only been hiding in a hotel here for more than a month.

He said he would reveal in court other details about the syndicate's operation.

Sy, who has been relieved from his office here, denied the accusation.

"I don't have knowledge of the payoff. I am just an ordinary personnel," the Coast Guard official claimed. "I have to follow the chain of command."

He added that when he received a copy of the sheltering order from PPA, he kept it on file.

The Coast Guard should not be blamed for the escape of MV Criston since the Bureau of Customs, the agency that issued the "seize and detention" order, has the authority over it, he added.

PPA Tabaco officer-in-charge Flordeliza Balota denied the accusation but admitted that she signed the sheltering permit on orders of her superiors in Legazpi City.

Balota said Rene Agao, PPA Bicol chief, told her that the MV Criston should be given sheltering permit with the assurance that the Coastguard will conduct the round-the-clock guarding on the vessel.

Balota refused to answer when asked if somebody in the PPA received the payoff.

She said that if the police really believed in the credibility of the alleged whistle-blower, they must present him.

Tabaco City police head Chief Insp. Nilo Berdin Jr. told Balota and the other personalities involved in the alleged payoff not to worry because their accuser will face them in due time.

Berdin confirmed that the witness had signed a sworn affidavit indicting some government officials in the payoff.

"The witness said he had handed money amounting from P50,000 to P200,000 to some people for every rice shipment," Berdin said.

He said the witness sought his assistance for fear of his life after receiving death threats from the group.

The accuser said the payoffs were regularly given to some officials of the customs in Legazpi City, Coast Guard, PPA and other agencies every time there was a shipment.

He added that from March to September this year alone, the syndicate had made nine shipments.

The rice smuggling issue here has resulted to the relief of Bicol customs district collector Marcial Lopez and his assistant, Winston Florin.

City Mayor Alex Burce has commended Berdin for leading the crusade that resulted to the uncovering of the rice smuggling syndicate here.

The INQUIRER learned that the "seize and detention" order on the cargo and the vessel was issued by Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva and not by the local officials of the bureau. *Job Belen, PDI southern Luzon Bureau*

Ifugao execs sign watershed covenant

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Ifugao provincial officials have signed an environmental pact to preserve and rehabilitate forest reserves in the mountains of Tinoc, Ifugao, some 150 km from here.

The covenant signing was led by Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. and Tinoc Mayor Lopez Pugong, along with representatives of government and non-government organizations as a prelude to the Provincial Road Opening-Road Enhancement and Forest Enrichment (Pro-Reforest) program of the Ifugao government.

Local officials also organized the multisectoral forest protection committee in Tinoc to undertake preventive and rehabilitative measures for the watershed.

During the program launching on Nov. 13, local officials and residents planted thousands of tree seedlings in Barangays Poblacion, Ehep, Gumhang, Impuggong, Tukkucan and Ap-apid in Tinoc.

"With the alarming denudation of our forests, which, as a watershed supply of Magat dam in Isabela, there is a need to change the concept of development among the residents in Tinoc. In any development there is a negative effect to the environment," Baguilat said.

Baguilat was referring to the indiscriminate conversion, particularly the flattening of mountains in Tinoc to pave the way for agriculture.

He said most residents of Tinoc, a town that used to be a marijuana producer in the 1980s and 1990s, have shifted to vegetable gardening. Several pine trees were thus felled to give way to vegetable farming.

"You can see telltale signs in hectares and it is damaging to Tinoc," he said.

The limited areas for agriculture have prompted residents to convert the province's *muyung* (communal forests), he added.

Baguilat said Tinoc residents had told him that they shifted to vegetable farming because of the influence of vegetable farmers in the neighboring villages of Buguias, Benguet.

Officials of the environment and agriculture departments said farm expansion in the area was triggered by the lessening soil fertility in Benguet caused by the overuse of pesticides and fertilizers.

"While it is true that despite the bad roads they have, they were able to improve their quality of life brought about by the demand of their business but there is a need to regulate land use and the implementation of zoning plans," Baguilat said. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

HOLIDAY DECORS RYAN LIM
Ambulant vendors now sell Christmas lanterns along San Pedro Street in Davao City.

Death of human rights lawyer mourned

DAVAO CITY—Residents here mourn the loss of human rights lawyer Laurente Ilagan, who succumbed to a lung cancer at 12:20 p.m. Thursday at the Davao Doctor's Hospital. He was 55.

Ilagan, who at the time of his death served as the newly appointed City Legal Officer, was one of the three Davao lawyers detained during the Marcos dictatorship for alleged rebellion charges. The two others were Antonio Arellano, now the Regional State Prosecutor for Northern Mindanao, and Marcos Risonar, now with the Register of Deeds of Davao del Sur.

Their arrest was by virtue of a Marcosian Preventive Detention Action (PDA) signed by then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

At the time of his arrest on May 10, 1985, Ilagan, known to many as "Larry," was the chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Mindanao. The three were released after the Edsa revolt.

"The feeling of conspiracy against dissenters like us was overwhelming so if Edsa did not happen, we were decided to go underground. It was a decision made by the three of us," Ilagan told the INQUIRER in an interview on May 10, 1999, 12 years after his arrest.

He claimed in that interview that they were actually on "weekend pass" when Edsa was happening and if the "Marcoses were not ousted we would not have returned."

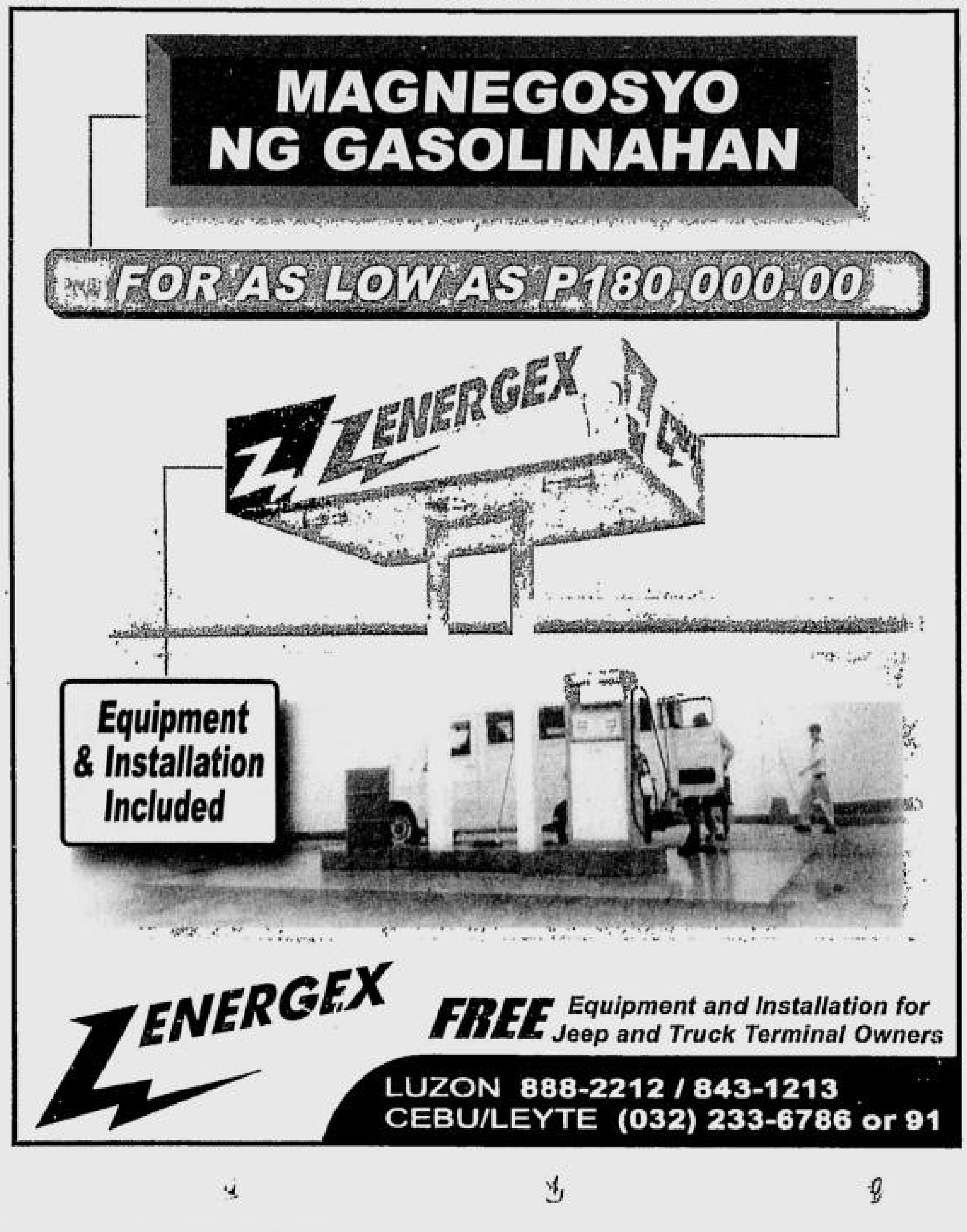
The trio's arrest is now known in legal jurisprudence as the "Ilagan Doctrine" and reported as the Ilagan vs Enrile case in 139 Supreme Court Reports Annotated 349.

After his release, Ilagan went back to private law practice and declined several offers for him to serve the government.

"I am more effective outside the system," he justified then. He also served as legal counsel for the National Democratic Front in the failed peace talks during the Aquino administration.

Prior to being the City Legal Officer, an appointment that surprised many of his colleagues, he was the senior partner of the DC Law Firm and National Vice President and con-current Regional Coordinator for Southern Mindanao of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG).

In 1998, he also served as the Davao City chapter president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP).*Carlos Isagani Zarate, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Fake checks circulating in Bicol department stores

LEGAZPI CITY—Government health insurance beneficiaries in the Bicol region have expressed alarm over possible delays in the release of their benefits after officials of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. found fake Philhealth checks circulating in the region.

Officials of Philhealth and various banks here expressed the same concerns after a syndicate involved in the racket victimized sari-sari stores, department stores and appliance centers.

In just a day, at least 47 fake checks—with amounts ranging from P4,000 to P9,000—have been transacted in at least three business firms here.

Among these business entities are the People's Marketing, Ben's Baker and Robertson's Department Store here. Twelve of the checks have been cashed.

Philhealth regional development management officer David Escandor told the INQUIRER that at least 47 checks were found spurious upon reaching the clearing stage at the Land Bank of the Philippines.

He said the syndicate is operating nationwide, especially in Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Baguio City and Mindanao areas.

"The Land Bank Legazpi City branch informed us last Oct. 30 that there were fake Philhealth checks, which we investigated to find out if they were really fake. And the victims are department stores and appliance centers," Escandor said, adding that the suspects are using these checks to pay for the purchase of appliances and various goods at department stores and lumber dealers.

He showed photocopies of the fake checks.

"A fake check is hard to distinguish unless it passes the clearing process where its peculiarities are examined. In fact, these 47 checks that we had retrieved in just one day were mostly owned by six persons only at a time," he said.

The fake checks showed the names of Anita D. Hernandez with three alleged fake checks; Gina Dizon, 3; Gilbert Padilla, 2; Rosita A. Santos, 2; and one each from Gabriel L. Espino and Adela Castro.

Escandor said a fake check shows the words PHIC RHIO1 SSS below the Philhealth, which means "regional health insurance office region1."

Another sign that the checks are fake is that the payee has no address below his name.

It contains: Land Bank of the Philippines, 2nd floor Jimenez Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi, and the signatory is Leticia L. Ravancho.

Escandor said genuine Philhealth checks mention no address and the signatory is Darlene Nuyles o Rachel Rubio.

He said Ravancho is the cashier of the Ilocos region and is not assigned to Bicol. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Laoag	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/11/17/01

ROUNDUP

Reminder to media

OROQUIETA CITY—A family court judge here reminded public prosecutors and journalists to be careful in dealing with reports about minors. Judge Ma. Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca, also of the Regional Trial Court, said: "Disclosing the names of the accused who are the fathers charged with the rape of their daughters, as well as their residences, nullifies our efforts because the identities of the daughters are naturally traceable to their fathers."
Ryan B. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Model for local gov'ts

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The pooled drug procurement program of Pangasinan, which has reduced by about half the cost of drugs bought by provincial hospitals, has been adopted as a model for local governments. Luz Muego, provincial population officer, presented the program to the American Public Health Association during its annual convention in Atlanta, Georgia, on Oct. 20-26. Muego said Pangasinan was able to buy drugs and medical supplies at reduced prices after the implementation of the pooled procurement system, enabling the province to save.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Murder suspects surrender

BAGUIO CITY—Three suspects in the Oct. 24 murder of three employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Abra have surrendered to Army officials last week. Supt. Arturo Quilop, Abra police director, said Army officials in the province turned over to their custody brothers Siso and Jerry Danao and Bacuso Tagubat, all members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit, in Baay-Licuan town. Two more are at large.
Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Quezon coastal watch

LUCENA CITY—The Quezon police have been ordered to keep under close watch the long coastal areas of the province for possible entry of smuggled goods in time for Christmas. Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, said the coastline has been the favorite dumping ground of illegal drugs and imported goodies. Records show that Atimonan was the dumping ground of various smuggled goods worth P85 million in 1995. Sariaya town's coastline along Tayabas Bay has also been the entry point of illegal cargo.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Creek pollution alarming

LUCENA CITY—The city council here has expressed alarm over the pollution of several creeks and river tributaries of Iyam and Dumacaa rivers. It blamed the rampant dumping of toxic waste by several factories in the city's outskirts. Councilor Buena Lequin reported during a session the dismal condition of some creeks surrounding San Lorenzo Oil Mill in Barangay Domoit, Ideal Farm along diversion road, J and J Oil Mill and Tantuco Oil Mill in Barangay Isabang. She called for the formation of a monitoring committee to help rehabilitate the rivers.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New roads to ease traffic

LUCENA CITY—The horrendous traffic along the Maharlika Highway in Quezon would soon be over with the planned construction of a 19-kilometer diversion road. Rolando Abrigo, acting district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways Expanded Sub-Engineering Office based here, said the road will bypass Tiaong, Candelaria and Sariaya. A parallel 27-km eco-tourism road project costing P900 million is now in the funding allocation stage.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NGO bats for recycling

LUCENA CITY—The militant Kapatiran at Alyansang Alay Para sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan, a coalition of non-government groups in Quezon, has criticized the proposed amendment to the Clean Air Act. The change is being pushed by Metro Manila mayors to accommodate incinerators. The group urged the adoption of recycling, waste segregation and composting.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Groups hit for coercion

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—The head of the Armed Forces Civil Military Operations Group for Southern Luzon based here has lambasted the leaders of human rights groups protesting the alleged military abuses committed against Mangyans in Oriental Mindoro. Col. Leonilo Lesava said Mangyan leaders told them that the natives who went with the groups were not really victims of alleged military abuses. He said their group had been conducting medical missions in known bailiwicks of dissident forces in the island. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 NPA rebels surrender

LUCENA CITY—Two suspected New People's Army rebels surrendered last Wednesday to elements of the 16th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Wasig, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, said the military's Southern Luzon Command here. Major Gerard Velez, Solcom spokesperson, identified the rebel-returnees as Manny Ingnyan alias Ka Greg and Dady Ayuhay alias Ka Leon, both ranking members of the Sandatahang Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP-Prising) of the rebels operating in the Mamburao-Mansalay-Roxas-Bulalacao area. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Rule of the gun in sugarland

BY JOEY R.B. LOZANO
Don Carlos, Bukidnon

THIS TOWN, together with adjacent Maramag, hosts Bukidnon's biggest private land, which the government has declared as a land reform area.

Covering a total of 2,697 hectares out of about 4,086 hectares, the area is classified as flat and undulating to rolling terrain. The place used to be the Bukidnon Farms Inc. (BFI) owned by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a crony of the deposed dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos and said to be one of the major financiers of the candidacy of ousted president Joseph Estrada.

The area used to teem with various crops—coconut, cacao and rice. There also was a tree plantation. Sequestered by the government after Corazon Aquino assumed presidency in 1986, the land was ordered for distribution to qualified beneficiaries in 1988.

How the Cojuangco estate had become a vast sugar plantation with only a handful of qualified beneficiaries speaks of another reality: the use of guns and goons for land occupation and subverted land reform program

Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer Engr. Julio Celestiano Jr. said there was enough land for residents under the guidelines set forth by the Department of Agrarian Reform.

First priority was to be given to BFI farmworkers at the time of the sequestration. An area of three hectares is allocated each. Second priority, which entitles the beneficiary to a hectare, are landless residents of the barangay where the land reform area is located. Other landless residents from the municipality are third priority.

There were about 400 employees at that time, says Leonardo Rubas who was once the manager of BFI, or "Cojuangco," as the area is now more popularly referred to.

Cloas gone awry

Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer Tarcisio Mapalo adds that three collective certificates of land ownership award (Cloas) had been designated to the three titles covered by the Cojuangco property. One had been converted and issued to 379 individual Cloas amounting to 375.4 hectares out of the 2,697 hectares, or an average of slightly more than a hectare per beneficiary.

As other Cloas to cover the rest have yet to be issued to those qualified, the occupancy rate based on those already awarded is only 13.6 percent.

But a visit to the place reveals a totally different picture. The entire area is practically fully occupied. Except for a few irrigated paddies and corn land that are the common preference of the formerly landless, the rest is filled with contiguous sugar plantations.

"*Ang tubo para lang yan sa mga mayaman, malaki ang gastos* (Maintaining a sugar plantation is only for the rich, it's too expensive)," said Cedric Yamba, one of those maintaining a plantation in the Cojuangco area.

Guns and goons

How the Cojuangco estate had become a vast sugar plantation with only a handful of qualified beneficiaries speaks of another reality: the use of guns and goons for land occupation and subverted land reform program.

Hence, the sugar-plantation-dominated area, too, may yet be Bukidnon's own version of "killing fields." Rubas gives a low estimate of 100 people killed in the area since the sequestration date to present. Others triple the figure.

"*Kanya-kanyang libing, gantihan, walang sumbungan* (each contending party buries its own dead, takes revenge, don't squeal)," said a source who is privy to the area.

Only last Oct. 13, two Manobo leaders were killed in an early morning ambush along a trail within the sugar cane plantations. Five days later, there was the burning of what Mayor Felix Manzano described as "shanties."

The source was irked by an INQUIRER report stating that the structures razed by still unidentified armed men were "houses," and the place a "village."

Shanties or not, those were in fact the dwelling units of *lumads* who are claiming back portions of BFI as their ancestral land, and who were interviewed by the INQUIRER in the area before the ambush and the burning.

On Sept. 27, or two weeks before the ambush, the house of Datu Marcial Tahuyan, chair of two *lumad* organizations spearheading the claim, was shot at, leaving a woman and a young girl wounded. The woman's husband, Ananias Tahuyan, was one of the two killed.

"It's hard to prosecute (the suspects to the ambush) as nobody is testifying," the mayor said in Filipino, "and nobody has filed a complaint."

Police negligence

But the *lumads* have reasons to think twice before reporting to authorities. For instance, the strafing incident remained only a statistic in the police blotter. The police conducted an investigation only after their attention was called. It has been almost a week after the incident but the victims have yet to be informed of the result of its investigation.

"Incidents involving us are seldom attended to, if any at all, by the police," says Manobo leader Petronilo Cul-om in Visayan. He cites the morning ambush that killed two persons. "The police arrived three hours later even if the station is just eight kilometers away."

Datu Winefredo Sumael, chair of the coalition Nagkahiusang Kahugpungan sa mga Manobo ug Talaandig (Nakamata) also cited more than 20 unsolved killings of *lumads* in recent years.

Manzano puts the blame on the Department of Agrarian Reform for the failure of its program here.

"Trouble came when the Dar told the Cloa beneficiaries to occupy their respective areas," he said, "so it's normal for the owners to get angry."

Manzano would not identify who the "owners" are except to say that vast portions of the area are being financed by outsiders for sugar cane plantations, including "the husband of the vice-mayor (Ma. Victoria O. Pizarro)."

But municipal agrarian reform officer Tarcisio Mapalo puts the blame on the BFI management.

"None of these troubles could have happened had the Cojuangco management cooperated from the beginning. It's as if they wouldn't want the area covered by land reform. These allowed outsiders to organize and forcibly occupy huge portions of the estate," Mapalo said.

Former BFI manager Rubas explains: "Our concept of sequestration is temporary, not what's actually happening now which is confiscation. We were hoping then that in a few months, we would resume operations."

But most of Cojuangco's assets, including those in the United Coconut Planters Bank, were frozen by the government. The BFI management, then headed by Victoriano Sola, had to downgrade operations for lack of funds.

Lay-offs followed, continued Rubas who was then one of four unit managers under Sola. It was at this time when Sola allowed employees to cultivate portions of the land for rice and corn to help them get by. The pressure to save the company became so heavy that Sola reportedly committed suicide a year after the 1988 sequestration order. Rubas assumed his position.

Squatters

Some "trusted men" were also allowed the use of huge tracts of land for a minimal fee. These were people who were made to understand and have agreed to return entrusted areas when company operations resume.

One of them was Cedric Yamba, former rice miller in Valencia town and a resident of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City. He admitted being used as a "front" by one of Cojuangco's managers to organize some 300 individuals to petition for pieces of land in the Cojuangco property.

He maintains a 16-hectare sugar plantation, four of which, he said "was forcibly taken by the Manobos."

The lull created by the sequestration order and actual implementation of land reform provided opportunities for "professional squatters" to organize. It was also what one sugar plantation manager described as a "crony-bashing" era and which was used as an excuse by opportunists to grab whatever they can from crony-owned companies.

"Every year, every summer, burnings (of plantation crops) happen," Rubas recalls. "It was a time when the Don Carlos fire truck was most busy."

"Professional squatters" then occupy the clearings left by the fire.

Rubas was all praises for the first agrarian reform officer (Sola) whom he described as "very strict" with the screening process. But higher DAR and other officials messed up the listing.

"They made a lot of insertions until the list got messed up," he said. The selection process was later characterized by briberies and accommodations, he added.

A look at the logbook of beneficiaries and applicants showed several erasures. Provincial agrarian reform officer Celestiano denied the charges. He claimed that strict guidelines were observed. He admitted knowing though that some beneficiaries had conveyed their Cloas to others, and that cases had been filed against those involved.

Fanatics

Mapalo also admitted that there were those who were qualified but were afraid to occupy their area because of "heavily armed squatters."

"The aggressive ones forced themselves inside (the Cojuangco area)," he said.

LUMADS use the GPS and digital video camera to advance their rights.

ANANIAS TAHUYAN, board member of San Luis Bukidnon Native Farmers Association, still alive after ambush being comforted by other members of SLBNFA.

TAHUYAN dies after being ambushed on Oct. 13.

These groups include the fanatical cults called Putian, and the Ilaga headed by Kumander Ligaya Buko whose members come from the Cotabato and Zamboanga provinces.

The Ilaga is a band of paramilitary men, mostly Ilonggos, which was used by Marcos for anti-insurgency. Its first leader was Kumander Toothpick. But it was Norberto Manero alias Kumander Bukay who became the most notorious. He was convicted for the brutal murder of Italian missionary Tulio Favali. He was also charged for the murder and cannibalism of two Muslim brothers in South Cotabato.

The Ilaga (literally meaning rat), aside from occupying huge tracts of lands for themselves, became hired goons of landlords out to grab more lands for themselves. This earned for them the moniker Ilonggo (sometimes Imelda, wife of Marcos) Landgrabbers Association.

Financiers

Vice Mayor Pizarro admits that her father and husband maintain sugar plantations in the area. Like other "big businessmen" and some municipal officials, her father and husband "only provide financing for sugar plantations."

"I want to make it clear that my father (and husband) are merely financiers. Landowners approached us for help, so they came in to help," she added. "It's better that we, not others, accept the offer because we are ready to return (the lands) when the owners want it back."

Pizarro did not elaborate how big the financed area is nor who the "owners" are. Sources said these include those who had forcibly occupied and claimed some areas as their own and had them leased to the "*sapian* (wealthy people)."

The law prohibits the selling of Cloas by beneficiaries for a period of 10 years. It also requires the actual occupation and use of the land by the beneficiary.

It is based on his actual occupation and being tiller of the land that Cedric Yamba now uses as reason to own what was left of his 16 hectares of sugar field. He said he was ready to buy arms and would not hesitate to use it against those who would attempt to take it away from him.

"Land reform here is a total failure because only the rich are benefiting from it," Rubas said referring to the vast sugar plantations.

"They are those who can harass (agrarian reform officials) who are being listed as beneficiaries," the former BFI manager stressed, "or those who can hire armed goons who are able to benefit from the land. It's a rule of the gun situation."

Dim prospects

Caught in the land reform imbroglio are two *lumad* organizations claiming portions of the Cojuangco estate: the San Luis Bukidnon Native Farmers Association (SLBNFA) headed by Datu Marcial Tahuyan, and the Nagkahiusang Tingog sa mga Mag-uumang Manobo sa Mulita Association (Nagtimma) headed by Datu Petronilo Cul-om. Both have a total membership of more than 300 families.

They are members of the Nakamata, an indigenous peoples' coalition of 10 organizations. It was formally organized in December 1999 as a response to the intensifying marginalization of tribe members in south-central Bukidnon caused by the expansion of sugar plantations.

Nagtimmma members are occupying an almost two-hectare area along the national highway in Barangay San Nicolas, and SLBNFA in San Juan.

"I've been here since 1967. I've not seen nor heard any Manobo living inside Cojuangco," Mayor Manzano said as he dismissed the *lumads'* ancestral land claims.

"The mayor is right," Datu Cul-om said "because the Manobos were forcibly driven away from the area in 1964."

Large-scale displacement of indigenous peoples in Mindanao commenced in the early 1960s with then President Marcos' thrust for cattle ranches. The area that Nagtimmma is claiming used to be a ranch owned by Don Enrique Zobel de Ayala, the chieftain said. The cowboys, he continued, "started driving us away."

The Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP) then headed by Antonio Cuenca, a Marcos crony, took over during martial law. It was at this time when Kumander Toothpick and his group started hunting down not only the Moro, but also the native inhabitants in the area.

Cojuangco bought the property in 1983. The company reportedly employed a "private army of about 80 persons armed with Armalite rifles and a 30-cal. machine gun."

The succeeding years were marked by the burning of *lumad* houses, Nagtimmma members claimed, although some families were allowed to remain at the edges of the estate. Cul-om himself was hired as a cowboy.

No right

When asked if he believes the natives are also entitled to even just a small piece of land, the mayor responded: "I don't think they have. Cloas had been issued to beneficiaries."

But Mapalo says an area of 50 hectares is allotted for 62 natives. "But they don't come here to apply for a document of acquisition, although 11 came later to apply."

"Dar employees drove us away when we went to apply," Datu Cul-om alleged. "*Ngano ma-*apply *pa mi kay sa mga kaapuhan man namo na nga lugar ug gihulam ra* (why do we have to apply when the area belongs to our ancestors and was just borrowed)?" he added.

The *lumad* chieftain was referring to the year 1930 when Don Manolo Fortich and his father Don Manuel came to see Datu Lorenzo Tigbabao, then the Supreme Tribal Chieftain. The Forticheş requested for the allocation of 10,000 hectares for conversion into a communal cattle ranch by Manila businessmen.

His descendants who are now claimants to the Cojuangco estate say Datu Tigbabao agreed provided it would only be for a 10-year period and that tribal leaders would be employed.

"It was good at the start," they said. "It was before the end of the 10-year period when the tribe started to be driven away." They found out later that most of the area had been titled.

"I suppose they are real titles," provincial agrarian reform officer Celestiano said, referring to the three titles that cover the entire Cojuangco farm. He dismisses suspicions that the area is part of an inalienable territory.

Legal remedies

"It will be a long protracted legal battle for the Manobo if they intend to file a title reversion case," says lawyer Wilfredo Diel, former Integrated Bar of the Philippines president of the now Socsargen (South Cotabato-Sarangani-Gen. Santos) region.

"A fraudulent title issued to a fraudulent claimant is enough basis for cancellation," he added "but that may take 15 years or more to prove in court."

Diel explained that there are alternative, albeit conflicting, remedies that can stand independently of one another. One is for the tribe to apply for a certificate of ancestral land title while pursuing a reversion proceeding.

Another is to assume that the title is valid but that the Cloas issued were null and void because of various violations committed in the processing. Once nullified, tribe members can assert priority over the issuance of Cloas.

But that appears to be easier said than done given the present realities. There is the laziness in the judiciary, he continues, aside from the fact that it is often understaffed and too bureaucratic.

Learning new technologies

Aside from organizing into a cohesive coalition, members of the Nakamata have also learned new skills to assert their claim and to advance their cause. Recently, they completed mapping the area with the use of the global positioning system (GPS) technology instead of the tedious and long survey with traditional transits.

In August, WITNESS, a New York-based human rights organization that provides digital video cameras to individuals and groups worldwide, sent the coalition their own equipment and accessories.

Training on the use of the camera had been provided. They used it to document the ambush that killed two tribe members. A GMA 7 program, The Probe Team, recently aired the footage and interviews with leaders and local officials on the ambush incident.

"These newfound skills and output which they could use later as evidence in court could be a reason for the intensified attack against us," admits Datu Cul-om. "But we cannot be cowed. We will pursue peacefully what we believe is justly ours. We are ready to die for it."

Last month, the harvest season has started. Along the highway here, truckloads of sugarcane pass by the Manobos' settlement on their way to two huge milling complexes in nearby Maramag and Quezon towns. Sources say landowners and financers could earn from a low P15,000 per hectare to a high P50,000.

Harvest time used to be a welcome note for the tribe. It would be a good four months when they could serve as cane cutters to earn petty cash. It is not so now.

Cane owners no longer hire ancestral land claimants for cutting. One reason, according to the *lumads*, is to deprive them of their only source of income. Second is the landowners' fear that they may be held liable if attacks against tribe members would happen in their area.

Hunger now stalks the *lumads* of Don Carlos. And there's the continued fear for their lives because of their growing assertion for their ancestral lands.

Condescension from among local officials remains strong and no government agency has so far extended any assistance.

As it is now, the Cojuangco estate here may yet live up, not only to its name as "killing fields," but also as the "field of the dying."

RP may get US debt relief as reward for terror fight

THE UNITED States may help ease the country's massive debt burden as reward for its swift response to the US call for a campaign against terrorism.

James Kelly, US assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, indicated Washington would consider helping the Philippines reschedule its foreign debt of more than $50 billion.

Kelly was speaking on a video link with Manila-based journalists from Washington late Friday ahead of US President George W. Bush's meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the White House on Tuesday.

Ms Macapagal was among the first state leaders to declare support for the US-led campaign against suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and his Taliban hosts in Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Ms Macapagal, who is in the United States on her first visit since she assumed the presidency in January, had allowed US military vessels and aircraft to transit through the Philippines on their way to Afghanistan.

Kelly was asked whether the Philippines could expect debt relief and concessions similar to the ones given to Pakistan, on which the US-led coalition counted heavily in toppling the Afghan Taliban regime.

On debt rescheduling, he said: "If this is something that the government of the Philippines needs and wants, it certainly is going to be given very careful consideration."

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had recently said Manila was unlikely to seek Pakistan-style relief and was more interested in attracting new capital.

After the terror onslaught, Washington approved a $600-million package for Pakistan and later agreed to reschedule $375.4 million of its debt.

Ms Macapagal is also scheduled to meet US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and other top US Cabinet officials.

In his talk with Filipino journalists, however, Kelly indicated the Philippines should not expect any writing off of debt.

"I don't think Pakistan's debts were forgiven. There were some delays in the payment," he recalled.

The government and state-controlled firms, account for about 64 percent of the Philippines' total debt, according to central bank figures.

Defense allocations to help restore law and order in Mindanao form a key component of the government's budget for 2002.

Ms Macapagal has asked Congress for a 31-percent increase in next year's defense budget to P1.4 billion, including money to upgrade equipment to fight the Muslim Abu Sayyaf kidnap-for-ransom group.

The group, which has links to Bin Laden's group, is holding two Americans and one Filipino hostage after beheading about a dozen captives, including one American.

Kelly downplayed speculation that Ms Macapagal would receive US weaponry to help combat the Abu Sayyaf.

"The war against terrorism has many components. I'm not sure frankly whether heavy artillery, fighter aircraft, bombers are necessarily the only solutions against them," he said.

"The software part is as important and perhaps more so than hardware," Kelly said, stressing that military training would be the key part of US assistance to the Philippines.

The Pentagon has already sent a team of military experts to Mindanao to advise local troops fighting the Abu Sayyaf and to gauge their requirements.

The United States and the Philippines are bound by a mutual defense treaty, which is 50 years old this year.

The Philippines is a strong military ally of the United States, its former colonial ruler and current largest trading partner.

The bursting of the US technology bubble hit the Philippine economy hard. Analysts have predicted zero growth in 2002, with merchandise export receipts officially forecast to fall 15 percent this year.

RP-US trade amounted to about $22.7 billion last year, with the United States taking about one-third of all Philippine exports. ***AFP***

Accord allowing US access to RP bases in the works

(From page A1)

They said Philippine and US defense officials had been secretly negotiating the agreement supposedly scheduled for signing next week.

The sources said MLSA was simply a revised name for the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (Acsa) that had been under negotiation since November 1992.

The Acsa was never signed because of strong opposition at the Senate, which, on Sept. 16, 1991, rejected the renewal of the 1947 RP-US Military Bases Agreement that allowed the United States to operate military bases and station troops in the Philippines.

Asked yesterday to comment on the supposed secret agreement, Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, said: "That's the most preposterous report I've ever heard."

He said such an agreement would not be possible because the Constitution prohibits foreign troops in the country.

"That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard," Tiglao went on when asked to confirm reports that the Department of National Defense was rushing negotiations with its US counterpart for the proposed MLSA.

"The Constitution is very clear," he added in a phone interview from New York, where he is part of the President's official party. "Unless there's a treaty we can't allow (the presence of US military bases). Not even with a treaty. The Constitution provides that no foreign military bases are allowed on Philippine soil."

Tiglao admitted that the defense agreements that would be signed during the President's working visit were still being finalized.

Ms Macapagal is meeting with US President George W. Bush and key US Cabinet officials in Washington on Nov. 20.

"It's premature to announce (the agreements) now," Tiglao said.

Access

Supposedly under the proposed MLSA, the Philippines will receive military hardware and supplies in exchange for US access to its former military bases as well as the transit and short-term stay of its personnel.

"(Work on the details), I think, has been going on for a while, and it's a sort of day-to-day tending for our alliance that we do," Kelley said

He denied that the MLSA would allow US forces use of the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga and the former Subic Naval Base in Zambales as their permanent military bases.

"Right now, we're very happy with the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), and we think that it is working quite well. We are satisfied, and we are not pressing for more," Kelley said.

He could not say whether the details of the proposed agreement would be ironed out in time for the President's meeting with Bush.

A ranking DFA official said Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Forces, had asked Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona to have the MLSA completed soon.

Guingona, who as a senator posed strong opposition to the VFA, reportedly did not react to Blair's request.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the public should not be afraid that the US would reestablish its bases here.

"That is not constitutional," Adan said. "What the MLSA is about, basically, is just to cover the ongoing refueling of US aircraft and recreation of US troops before they move on to other destinations."

Adan also said that apart from outlining the policies governing transit operations by US aircraft and vessels in the Philippines, the proposed agreement would mean added equipment for the military.

"Already, there is a C-130 plane being refurbished in the US for the use of the Philippine government," he said.

This was how Adan dismissed the fear that nuclear weapons would get into Philippine territory: "There would be no basis for that because the US neither confirms nor denies that its vessels have nuclear bombs in them."

Activists

Anti-bases activists assailed the alleged secret details in the proposed MLSA.

"These would mean amending the (VFA), and that would require Senate approval. If it is a secret agreement, it should be opposed and exposed as a violation of the VFA," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a phone interview.

He added: "The VFA does not allow the MLSA, which was rejected in the original Acsa proposal of then President Fidel Ramos. If there are secret talks regarding this matter, any agreement would be questionable."

Roland Simbulan, chair of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition and who led the anti-bases campaign in the 1980s, said the supposed secret arrangement was "sinister and will tie the Philippines to the leash of the US war machine."

"It's unfortunate that this is happening under Vice President Teofisto Guingona's watch at the DFA. Shame," Simbulan said.

Sonia Soto, chair of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, said "the Acsa, by whatever name, is still the same—it gives basing rights to the US, and that's unconstitutional."

A DFA source said the final negotiation for the MLSA during the last two months were "kept under wraps" in anticipation of adverse reactions.

The visits of Blair to the Philippines and of the President to the United States are believed tied to the final negotiation.

Discussions were "so discreet" that the draft strictly remained confidential at the level of a few top Filipino officials, the source said.

The source was not able to secure a copy of the draft but learned of its contents through DFA support personnel preparing it.

The draft basically retained the terms of the Acsa, the source said.

Acquisition

Tiglao said the proposed MLSA was already incorporated in the MDT and basically concerned joint acquisition of military equipment.

"It's mutual cooperative acquisition of materials," he said. "It won't be a big thing. You get together to get some kind of discount, that's all. If it would involve cheaper acquisition of materials, maybe we could go into it."

He denied that the MLSA was actually a revival of the Acsa, saying it was "entirely different."

Last month, Ms Macapagal fully endorsed the US military action in Afghanistan short of allowing troops to base here.

She allowed the US military to use air space and facilities, including its former bases, for refueling and transit.

In a primer published in 1995, American Daniel Schirmer of the Philippine Bases Network said the Acsa was "US bases by another name."

"The terms of Acsa clearly and definitely bind the Philippines to give continued service to the US wars and interventions in the Asia-Pacific region," Schirmer said, adding that this was spelled out in Acsa's Clause I (Applicability), Section 1.

"This agreement is designed to facilitate reciprocal logistics support between the parties to be used primarily during continued exercises, training, deployments or other cooperative efforts, and for unforeseen circumstances or exigencies mandated by the treaty (1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, or MDT) in which the recipient may have need of logistics support, supplies and services," he said.

The text of the 1994 Acsa draft defined this as "food, billeting, transportation, petroleum, oil, lubricants, clothing, communications services, medical services, ammunition, base operations support (and construction incident thereto), storage services, use of facilities, training services, spare parts and components, repair and maintenance service, and airport and seaport services."

These, said Schirmer, were formerly provided to the US military by the bases at Clark and Subic.

He said US officials "took the initiative both in the creation of Acsa and its introduction to the Philippine public."

He said former US Ambassador to the Philippines John Negroponte first announced the existence of the agreement on Nov. 12, 1994.

Sen. Blas Ople, then chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, condemned Negroponte for his "premature announcement."

MOA between LRTA and PDI is signed at the INQUIRER office. Seated, left to right: Rodrigo Bulario, OIC operations and engineering dept.; Alexandra P. Romualdez, PDI president; Atty. Teodoro Cruz, LRT administrator; Dave Valdes, PDI SVP for Corporate Services. Standing, from left: Atty. Raul Palabrica; Atty. Supring Bueno, LRT corporate lawyer; Imee Alcantara, PDI head, Corporate Planning; Rene Reinoso, PDI SVP for Sales and Marketing, Bien Baltazar; Gloria Lardizabal, AVP, PDI circulation; Roselle Fortes, PDI corporate planning; Jess Jimenez, LRTA, business development unit officer.

SIGNED and sealed, the Memorandum of Agreement to distribute INQUIRER Libre to MRT commuters is signed between the transportation department and the INQUIRER. Left to right, Mario Miranda, general manager, Metrostar Express; DOTC Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad; DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez; Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, PDI president; Dave Valdes, PDI SVP for Corporate Services. Standing is Atty. Ramon Cuyco, DOTC spokesperson. JOHNNY VILLENA

Best things . . .

(From page A1)

staff will be handing out Libre, the company's new tabloid. And as its name implies, it will be distributed free.

Libre will be available every morning, Monday to Friday, to LRT and MRT passengers. After a few days, copies of the tabloid can also be picked up from custom-built stands at selected stations.

Libre will contain the latest local and foreign news stories, features, entertainment fare, human interest stories, advice columns, sports and romance.

How-tos will be a regular fare of the tabloid, aiming at helping readers get basic facts and information on things and activities that can help them in their everyday lives.

The articles will be written in English and Filipino, in a simple, easy-to-understand style. In most cases, Libre will use graphics and visuals to help readers fully understand the articles. The goal: to enable readers to know as much news and information in the shortest time possible.

In coming out with a free newspaper, INQUIRER hopes to reach out to more readers, especially those who are not regular newspaper readers due to lack of time and pressures of work and personal concerns.

It also hopes to revive and instill the reading habit among the young and old.

A free newspaper is the hottest trend in the newspaper industry. It started in Sweden about three years ago where it succeeded so well that the concept quickly spread to other European countries.

Today, free newspapers can also be found in the United States and in countries in South America and Asia.

Libre will be the first regular free newspaper to be distributed in Metro Manila.

The new paper's editorial staff is composed of Abelardo S. Ulanday as editor in chief, and Teddyvic Melendres, Chito dela Vega, Romel Lalata and Pam Pastor as desk editors.

Gloria to UN: Help poor to lick terrorism

(From page A1)

Center's collapsed twin towers.

Amid an overcast sky, she stood and prayed on a wooden platform that overlooked the still smoking jumble of concrete and steel.

"I prayed that those who perished here are now in God's company," said the President who was wearing a black suit and a mustard-colored pashmina shawl.

She said her concern for the victims of the Sept. 11 terror attack was not only expressed by her visit to Ground Zero but also by the Philippines' participation in the US-led coalition against international terrorism.

Twenty minutes into the President's visit, outgoing New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani arrived and thanked Ms Macapagal who is one of the staunchest supporters of the US-led campaign against terrorism.

All gone

Later, she recalled to reporters having visited the World Trade Center many times, including cocktails with her husband at the Windows of the World restaurant.

"Now it's all gone," she said.

She said the terrorists who brought down the towers also attempted to bring down the international economy.

The World Trade Center "symbolized the world economy. When it went down, the global economy also went down," she said.

But she said the attacks had united former foes like the United States, Russia, China and Iran in fighting terrorism.

"There is new hope for world unity after the attacks," she said.

She also noted positive developments since Sept. 11.

"Kabul has fallen. Foreign businessmen are keen on investing in the Philippines and the recession is expected to be short," the President said.

In her UN General Assembly speech, Ms Macapagal reiterated a call that she made at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shanghai last month.

She said the international community will need to step up efforts to close the gap between the rich and the poor.

The most effective and least costly anti-poverty measure on a global scale was for developed countries to open their markets wider to products of the developing countries, she said.

She identified these products as agricultural commodities, textiles, clothing, footwear, electrical and electronic appliances and components.

A global recession "will be felt most deeply by those least able to endure it," the President said.

No subsidy for farmers

The global trading system cannot allow rich countries to subsidize their agricultural exports while poor countries had no means to help their own farmers, Ms Macapagal said.

She said she supported the decision of the recent ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

"To ensure that the WTO does not lose credibility at this crucial time, our top priority is to ensure that the Doha (Qatar, where the WTO held its recent meeting) round is truly a development round," she said.

But the goal of eliminating poverty will not be attained in places where women are mistreated, she said.

"As the woman head of state . . . of the 14th largest nation, I say we cannot conquer poverty without liberating women and girls where they are oppressed," Ms Macapagal said.

Less than a third of the seats were filled in the hall where the President delivered her speech.

A Filipino UN employee said that it was the first day of Ramadan and the last day of the General Assembly by way of explanation.

After her speech and meeting with Anan, the President joined about a hundred Filipino-American employees of the UN. Some 2,000 Filipinos work at the UN.

Ms Macapagal said working at the UN was still considered "glamorous."

In memoriam

One of the 18 Filipino-Americans who died at the World Trade Center had a picture taken with then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo during the Independence Day Parade in Manhattan on June 12, 1998.

Hector Tamayo, a civil engineer, had been overseeing the construction of the offices of the Harris, Beach and Wilcox law firm.on the 86th Floor of the South Tower when the terrorists struck.

He left a wife, a 16-year-old daughter and a 19-year-old son.

Sylvia Mercene, a sister-in-law of Tamayo and a resident of Queens, was very appreciative of the President's visit to Ground Zero.

"That's very nice of her. That's very compassionate," said Mercene.

The President will be attending a memorial service for the still missing victims of the Sept. 11 attacks at the St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday.

The President told reporters that she has pleasant memories of the World Trade Center.

She said she and her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had visited the Windows of the World restaurant long before she joined government.

"I remember bringing my children here when they were small. My children had their picture taken with their hair standing (on end) because it was windy," she said.

Ms Macapagal's husband, daughter Luli and son Diosdado III have joined her on this US working visit. So have spouses of several government officials.

The solemnity of the President's Ground Zero visit was broken by the constant flashing of cameras as members of the official delegation posed for pictures with their spouses. ***With reports from AP and AFP***

Young Muslims out to make it to ARMM on meritocracy

(From page A1)

political circles abuzz with the name Paglas. A virtually political unknown and businessman, this candidate among 13 others vying for ARMM governor is set on pushing for "economic reform" in the region. His name synonymous with his town and the only Muslim TOYM awardee, Mayor Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas, 40, has internationalized the Datu Paglas town in Maguindanao with his innovative Peace Zone project involving a Peace Plaza, surrounded by flags of country donors to his town's development projects and a Pyramid of Peace, with a Tower of Guns symbolic of surrender of "lawless elements who laid their guns to rest."

CNN, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the United Nations acknowledged the "Datu Paglas Story: From War Zone to Economic Zone" as a "Muslim success story."

In a territory which places dynastic links at a pedestal, these political wannabes and current political shakers "aim to transform Moro politics from feudal to developmental, and to meritocracy."

Bets for assemblymen

"Help me help you," is the campaign slogan of assemblyman hopeful Abraham "Jess" Burahan, 31, among the citizens of Sulu province. In the ARMM campaign which started Oct. 12 (to end Nov.24), creative slogans and posters are being used to attract votes in a predominantly Muslim population.

There are 158 candidates competing for only 24 seats for regional assemblymen, three for each of the ARMM provinces' eight legislative districts.

Up against old political kingpins, Jess, a former mayor of the town of Panglima Tahil, has only one thing "different" to offer the voters: "The sincerity to serve."

In Lanao del Sur, Shalemar Tamano is another assemblyman candidate. At 29 with a slogan "*Sembag o Kangodaan sa Ranao* (Answer of Lanao's Youth)," he wants to change Maranao stereotypes of big-moneyed politicians succeeding through the use of the three G's—guns, goons and gold.

A former legislative officer in the Senate, Tamano hopes to inject his training in the Upper House in local politics.

Atenean

Like Jess, Sulu councilor (of Indanan town) lawyer Edilwasif Badiri (a graduate of Ateneo) believes being young "provides more access to the people." Only 25, he is the youngest elected Board member in the province after winning the elections at the Philippine Councilor's League of the province (which gives one a seat at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan).

Exposed early on to the poverty of his province, Badiri carries with him the vivid memory of "kids without clothes." So, he gave up what could have been a lucrative legal career in Manila to return to his roots.

Youthful officials

Balindong town mayor and CIDA-trained Benjie Bagul, at 28 had to fight the traditional mindsets of his elders "looking down on the young." In his three months in office, he has "gained respect" when he pushed infrastructure buildup in this far-flung town in Lanao Sur, "rehabilitating" farm-to-market roads of about five barangays in the agricultural municipality.

He says he hopes to expose the town's farmers to Lake Buluan's (in Maguindanao) success of marketing its fish and agricultural products to the local, and eventually the national market.

Tawi-Tawi councilor who's also a Board member, Asrima "Beng" Camlian, at 23, is probably the youngest female in the region, holding the highest political elective position. Helping to promote her province as an investment area is her top priority as she recently attended the Asean regional Malay conferences held in Indonesia.

Both executives, Beng and Edil envision "infrastructure" development in their respective provinces as their priority. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Abubakar Mohammad supports this idea after meeting with Malaysian business planners in the 1st ARMM Business Council Forum held at Heritage Hotel, Manila. "How can we do business when our transportation routes are defective?" this former vice governor of Tawi-Tawi asked. Countering the criticism of the ARMM's "failure," ARMM Board of Investments (BOI) Director Altuaib Tulawie says funding released by the government was mostly for personnel services. "ARMM is ready to do business," exhorted the ARMM officials.

But like many of young politicians and NGO workers, Jess thinks a strength, weaknesses, opportunity and threat (SWOT) analysis is needed. The people have to be asked directly: What is the problem? The ARMM, for all its rich natural resources, remains to be the poorest region in terms of the human development index and Gross Domestic Product input.

And that's why, Edil looks up to politician "models" with traits of humility and determination. Present Sulu Gov. Yusoph Jikiri, he related, is one politician who does not ride a branded automobile, characteristic of past and current Moro politicians.

About time

"It's about time our young Muslim political leaders organize and have their say and be heard," urged Commissioner for Mindanao Pendatun Disimban of the National Youth Commission (NYC).

"The time of the young has come," says former Lanao Sur Vice Governor Normalah Lucman.

BOI-ARMM Chair Mohammad Salih stated that the formula in Muslim areas is development before peace. Strike at the core of the problem, he says. Tamano is localizing politics to address people's needs. With these ideas and the dynamism of youth in place, says a journalist, what could go wrong in Muslim development? Only time will tell.

Taliban chief flees

(From page A1)

city to Pashtuns who have a good working relationship with the group, rather than risk the city being overrun by hostile forces.

An official of Harkat ul-Mujahedeen, a Pakistan-based group allied with the Taliban, said Omar was pressured by local leaders to leave the city and end US attacks.

Omar reluctantly accepted the deal Friday night in return for safe passage out of the city, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

If Omar and the Taliban were to flee Kandahar, it would leave the militia without any major city under its control and reduce the movement to little more than a guerrilla force in the hills of southern Afghanistan.

But the Taliban's consulate in Quetta, Pakistan, said the report was false. "It's completely wrong. It's a baseless report," said Abdullah Hamad, the consul general in Quetta, about 200 km southeast of Kandahar.

Asked about the report, Pentagon spokesperson Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem also expressed skepticism.

"I don't put much stock in at this point. I don't believe it," he told reporters in Washington on Friday.

"I think that our forces out there are still operating under the assumption that it is a hostile environment. I think the opposition groups are operating in the same way," he added.

Mohammed Atef

US officials did say that they believed Bin Laden's military chief, Mohammed Atef, had been killed in a recent US air strike.

Mullah Najibullah, a Taliban official in the southeast Afghan border town of Spinboldak, confirmed the report. But he would not identify the location of the US air strike or the other al-Qaida members who died with Atef.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Najibullah also said that Bin Laden was still alive.

Even so, military analysts said that Atef's death was a serious setback to the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Atef was suspected of helping plan the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon that killed thousands. He also directly planned the embassy bombings in Africa in 1998 that killed 224 people, according to a US indictment that charged him with murder.

Atef also was accused of helping plan the downing of a helicopter in Somalia that killed 18 US soldiers in 1993.

Atef was a close confidant of Bin Laden, and his daughter was married to Bin Laden's son.

Atef, an Egyptian believed to be about 57 years old, wrote al-Qaida's terrorism manual and ran the organization's training camps. He was often seen at Bin Laden's left or right hand in photographs and videotapes taken in Afghanistan in recent years.

Atef came to prominence after he moved from Egypt to Afghanistan in the mid-1980s to join Afghan guerrillas fighting Soviet forces.

After the Soviets pulled out, he joined Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Days after the US air strikes began on Oct. 7, Atef warned that US troops would suffer the same fate in Afghanistan as they did in Somalia.

"America will not realize its miscalculations until its soldiers are dragged in Afghanistan like they were in Somalia," Atef was quoted as saying by the London-based Islamic Observation Center.

Special forces

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said US special forces troops had been engaged in ground combat in Afghanistan, "killing Taliban that won't surrender" as well as al-Qaida terrorists.

No Americans have been killed or wounded in the encounters, he said while disclosing that hundreds of US special operations troops were on the ground in northern and southern Afghanistan assisting opposition forces and hunting al-Qaida leaders. Rumsfeld previously had indicated that their numbers were in the dozens.

Kunduz a standoff

In northern Afghanistan, fighters from the northern alliance were laying siege to the city of Kunduz, backed by US air strikes.

"Kunduz is at a standoff," Stufflebeem said. "And there are a number of reports that indicate there are forces determined to fight and they're dug in."

The defenders include an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 foreigners loyal to Bin Laden. They are much less likely than Afghan Taliban to simply surrender or slip away, as the bulk of Taliban forces did in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and in Kabul.

Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun leader who has been trying to organize an anti-Taliban uprising, told CNN that Taliban leaders would be offered amnesty if they surrendered and gave up their weapons. But should they leave Kandahar, he said, they would have nowhere else to go.

Karzai's brother Ahmed told The Associated Press that Hamid Karzai was now in control of Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province, which borders Kandahar province to the north.

The Taliban governor has left the province, and Karzai moved in Friday, Ahmed Karzai said in a telephone interview from Quetta.

Political front

On the political front, United Nations envoy Francesc Vendrell was to arrive Saturday in Kabul, where Northern Alliance troops are in control but have yet to establish a government to replace the Taliban.

The United Nations has said a broad-based government that includes the various ethnic groups is the only way to prevent a recurrence of faction fighting that leveled much of the city before the Taliban took power in 1996.

There already are signs of tensions.

Karim Khalili, who heads the Hezb-e-Wahadat factions representing Shiite Muslims, assailed the head of the Northern Alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani, for sending his Jamiat-e-Islami soldiers to take control of Kabul.

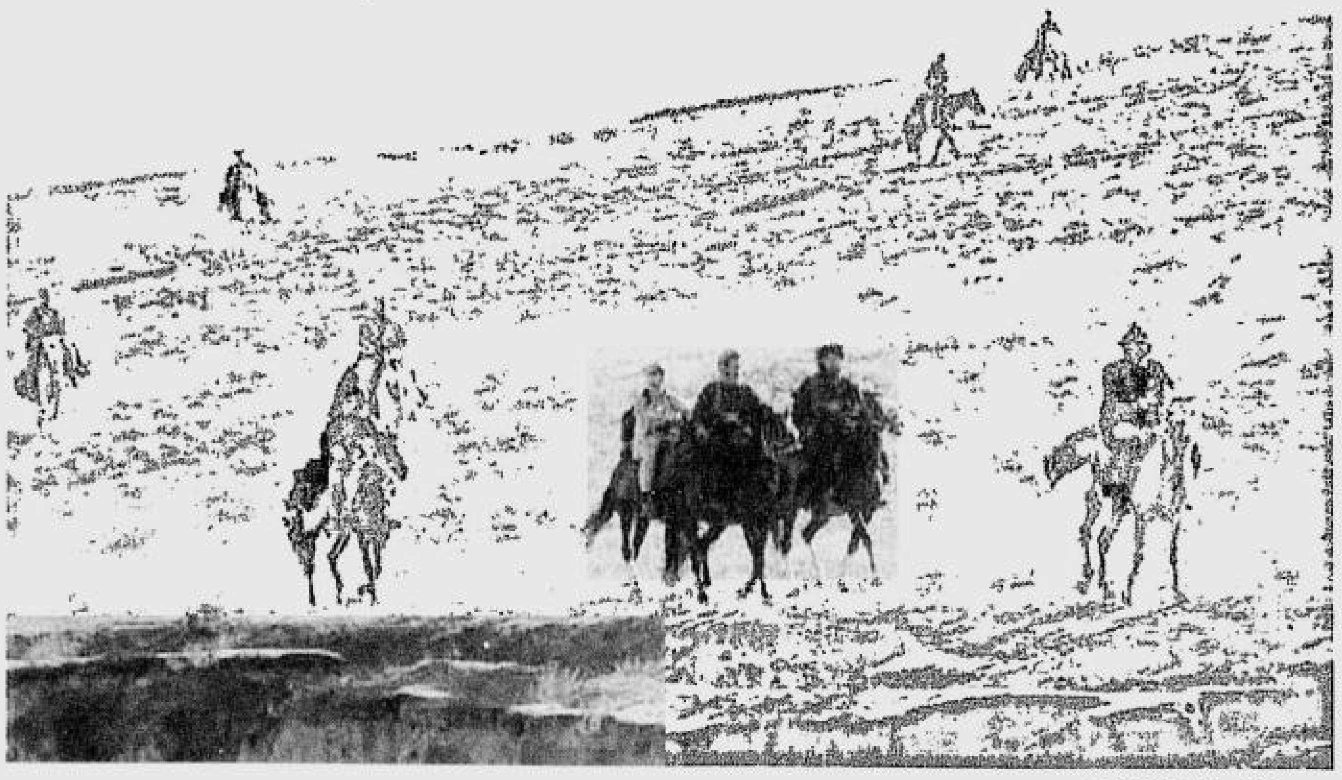
Rabbani was Afghanistan's president from 1992-1996. His faction says the troops are in Kabul to provide security, although they have taken over the key ministries of defense, foreign and interior.

"The United Nations should move quickly to do something, because it is unfair for one party to be in control," Khalili said by satellite telephone from Jalraiz, 40 km southwest of the capital.

"We agreed not to go into Kabul, but now they are there," he added. "They say for security, but then all the parties should be represented."

Khalili said he had brought 3,000 Shiite Muslims to Jalraiz, and said his followers had put up posters of him throughout the western neighborhoods of the capital, which is dominated by Shiite Muslims.

AP



MAKING like Afghans, US special forces ride horseback as they operate with members of the Northern Alliance. The Pentagon admitted for the first time on Saturday that hundreds of US forces had been on the ground since the US air strikes began Oct. 7.

REUTERS

Man who brought hostages to safety is Sabaya's best pal

(From page A1)

Manila and editing a special report.

By mid-morning, after treating the three ex-hostages to brunch at the Sunburst Restaurant in Zamboanga, Siglos had made a decision.

He took them to the RMN-Radyo Agong station, and from there, officials of the Armed Forces' Southern Command were informed.

At 1 p.m. the ex-hostages were brought to the Southcom headquarters, where they were immediately debriefed.

Siglos was reportedly asked not to speak with the media, and at the press conference later that afternoon his name was not mentioned.

The official word of the military was that the three hostages—Montealegre and Rosadeno abducted from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan in May, and Tabunyag from a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, in June—had been "recovered."

'Siga'

Siglos, who is in his mid-30s, described himself as a "tennis addict."

He said that back in high school he was the *siga* (tough guy), and Sabaya just one of his many followers.

"If I would say then that we would not attend classes for the entire day, everyone in my class would follow," he said.

Siglos said that in the early 1980s he formed a fraternity of which Sabaya was among the original members.

The two men lost touch for many years after college, but last March Siglos saw "Dams" in news and public affairs programs introducing himself as Sabaya.

He said he wanted to get in touch with his old friend but that he was afraid to do it then.

Their reunion occurred after Abu Sayyaf abducted a number of civilians last June from the Golden Harvest Plantation in Tairan, Basilan, Siglos' birthplace.

Siglos said he was related to a number of the hostages. He said an uncle, Crisanto Martinez, was among those beheaded, and Francisco Falcasantos, the two Abellon brothers and Rodrigo Solon were all his cousins.

Through Sabaya's family in Basilan, Siglos was able to make contact with "Dams" and appeal for the release of his relatives.

Since then, he said, Sabaya had been regularly calling him and was even convincing him to negotiate for the ransom of the two American Dos Palmas hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham.

Siglos admitted that he had run a number of errands for Sabaya, like buying medicines and thick clothing for the hostages.

But he said he never agreed to serve as "negotiator."

"I did (the errands) because I was appealing to him to release to me the Tairan hostages, who are mostly my relatives," he said.

Then in one phone conversation last August, Sabaya promised Siglos that he would soon be instrumental in the release of the hostages. That promise was fulfilled Thursday when the three hostages were handed over to him by Sabaya's relative.

Hostages married

Siglos said he had learned from Montealegre that she was married in Muslim rites to Sabaya.

Rosadeno and Tabunyag were also reportedly married to other commanders of the Abu Sayyaf, and Reina Malonzo, another hostage from Lamitan who was earlier freed, to Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani.

Siglos said no ransom was paid for the release of the seven hostages, including four from the Golden Harvest Plantation, whom the military presented to the media on Thursday.

He quoted Sabaya as saying that the seven, who had converted to Islam, received strict instructions from Abu Sayyaf leaders not to go back to the Catholic religion.

He said the hostages from the plantation had been instructed by Sabaya to coordinate with the Office of the Muslim Affairs and apply for scholarships in any Muslim country.

As for the Burnhams, the Abu Sayyaf is still demanding $2 million in ransom, Siglos said.

But no one—not the military, the Philippine government, the US Embassy or even relatives of the Burnhams—is negotiating.

The military has said that the Abu Sayyaf was cornered in an area in Basilan and that the rescue of the Burnhams and the last Filipino hostage, Deborah Yap, was only a matter of time.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (PERSONS AND FAMILY RELATIONS: FAMILY CODE)—Psychological incapacity—It should be obvious, looking at all the foregoing disquisitions, including and most importantly, the deliberations of the Family Code Revision Committee itself, that the use of the phrase 'psychological incapacity' under Article 36 of the Code has not been meant to comprehend all such possible cases of psychoses as, likewise mentioned by some ecclesiastical authorities, extremely low intelligence, immaturity, and like circumstances. Article 36 of the Family Code cannot be taken and construed independently of, but must stand in conjunction with, existing precepts in our law on marriage. Thus correlated, 'psychological incapacity' should refer to no less than a mental (not physical) incapacity that causes a part to be truly incognitive of the basic marital covenants that concomitantly must be assumed and discharged by th parties to the marriage which, as so expressed by Article 68 of the Family Code, include their mutual obligations to live together, observe love, respect and fidelity and render help and support. There is hardly any doubt that the intendment of the law has been to confine the meaning of 'psychological incapacity' to the most serious cases of personality disorders clearly demonstrative of an utter insensitivity or inability to give meaning and significance to the marriage. This psychologic condition must exist at the time the marriage is celebrated. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Pesca v. Pesca, G.R. No. 136921, April 17, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 18, 2001
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Mal 3:19-20**

The day already comes, flaming as a furnace.
On that day all the proud and evildoers
will be burned like straw in the fire.
They will be left without branches or roots.
On the other hand the sun of justice
will shine upon you,who respect my Name
and bring health in its rays.
You will come out leaping like fattened calves.

2nd Reading: **2 Thes 3:7-12**

You know how you ought to follow our example: we worked while we were with you. Day and night we labored and toiled so as not to be a burden to any of you. We had the right to act otherwise, but we wanted to give you an example.

Besides, while we were with you, we said clearly: If anyone is not willing to work, neither should that one eat. However we heard that some among you live in idleness—busybodies, doing no work. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we command these people to work and earn their own living.

Gospel: **Lk 21:5-19**

While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts, Jesus said to them, "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another of all that you now admire; all will be torn down." And they asked him, "Master, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Jesus then said, "Take care not to be deceived, for many will come claiming my title and saying: 'I am he, the Messiah; the time is at hand.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and troubled times, don't be frightened; for all this must happen first, even though the end is not so soon."

And Jesus said, "Nations will fight each other and kingdom will oppose kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and plagues; in many places strange and terrifying signs from heaven will be seen. Before all this happens, people will lay their hands on you and persecute you; you will be delivered to the Jewish courts and put in prison, and for my sake you will be brought before kings and governors. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

So keep this in mind: do not worry in advance about what to answer, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be betrayed even by parents, and brothers, by relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. But even though you are hated by all for my name's sake, not a hair of your head will perish. Through perseverance you will possess your own selves."

Commentary:

The Temple of Jerusalem is known as the temple of enormous wealth, because of its massive structure. But in this prophecy of Jesus, it is now about ready to be completely destroyed. The people ask Jesus for the signs when these things will happen. The answer is not about the end, but of the signs of the period before the end. This will be a time of false prophets and a time of witnessing in the face of persecution and trials. What are described, seem to be characteristic of every generation. We have seen a sample of these, but the end is not yet. By believing, we will not be misled. By enduring, we will not be lost. The Romans destroyed it in 70 AD.

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*Improve relations
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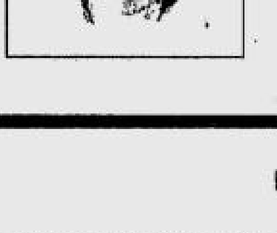

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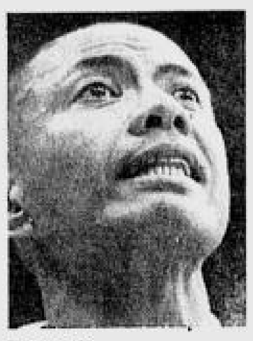
GOVERNORS CUP

SLR, Pop gun for semis slots



GUIAO

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia
6:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Alaska

THERE are two things Batang Red Bull must do to beat a powerhouse squad like Sta. Lucia Realty: stop the breaks and check the Realtors' isolation plays.

The Thunder should bear these things in mind to beat the second-seeded Realtors today in the quarterfinals of the PBA Governors Cup.

The Realtors enjoy a twice-to-beat edge in the 4:05 p.m. setto at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pop Cola tries to maximize a similar advantage over Alaska in the other quarterfinals' thriller later in the night.

"We will focus on stopping their isolation and fast-break plays and hope that we demonstrate a balanced offense in return," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao yesterday amid chirping sneakers during practice at the RFM Gym.

Guiao was referring to the post-up and one-on-one plays centered on Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and Dàmien Owens. Sweet-shooting Paolo Mendoza and Felix Belano also pose a threat to the Thunder in the backcourt.

"We already reviewed the tapes and made some adjustments," Guiao said.

So far, the Realtors and the Thunder have split their matches this conference and experienced similar downward paths before closing out their elimination stints.

Breaks allowed the Realtors to beat the Thunder, 96-77, during their first meeting while Red Bull halted Sta. Lucia's isolation plays in their rematch to fashion out a 101-94 overtime win.

Meanwhile, San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso continues to pace the season MVP race with 4,456 statistical points. Ildefonso, last year's MVP, won the All-Filipino and Commissioner's Cup player of the conference award this year.

At far second is Ildefonso's teammate, Danny Seigle, who already garnered 3,800 statistical points while Red Bull's Davon Harp stays up at third with 3,564 SPs.

Batangas faces Negros as elims end

GAMES TODAY
Araullo Gym (Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.—San Juan vs Nueva Ecija
USLS Bacolod
5:30 p.m.—Batangas vs Negros

PACESETTERS LBC Batangas and Negros part ways at 5:30 p.m. today at the close of the elimination round of the MBA Second Phase at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

Both teams are assured of the No. 1 qualifying spot in their respective conferences regardless of the outcome, but the Slashers may have the stronger motivation to prevail.

The Slashers want to avenge the 82-68 defeat dealt them by the Blades on Nov. 4 and make up for their so-so performances at their homecourt this conference.

Negros also needs a victory to dispel the notion that Northern Conference teams are better than their Southern Conference counterparts.

The LBC Batangas Blades are sure to top the North with an 11-win, 2-loss record and can afford to relax while FedEx Laguna and Andok's San Juan clash in a best-of-three semifinal series. The survivor would then face LBC Batangas in a best-of-five showdown for the conference crown.

The Slashers are on the same boat with a 9-4 slate and will have to wait for the winner of the Cebuana Lhuillier-TPG Davao semifinal tussle.

For the Slashers to win, John Ferriols, Johnedel Cardel, Jomar Tierra and Ruben dela Rosa must get their offensive going.

Andok's San Juan (8-5) tries to regain its bearing when it meets also-ran Nueva Ecija (3-10) in the 3 p.m. opener at the Araullo Gym in Cabanatuan City.

MBA games are being telecast live over National Broadcasting Network Channel 4 Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. *Roy Luarca*

Ana Freezers downs Ateneo

By Dennis U. Eroa

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc-Archers zoomed to its second straight win by downing Kutitap Toothpaste, 57-53, but the spotlight fell on Ana Freezers which scored a come-from-behind 92-83 win over Ateneo-Pioneer in the PBL Challenge Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

The Archers went scoreless in the final four minutes, but more than made up with an extra-tight defense which forced the Sparklers to fumble for their shots.

Rookie Mike Cortez had six turnovers but not after masterfully setting up ICTSI plays in the homestretch. Cortez, Mugsy Magsumbol and Alvin Castro delivered the crucial baskets as the Archers successfully followed up their 76-68 triumph over Ana last Thursday.

Outhustled by the taller and faster Insurers, the Freezer Kings trailed by 12 points, 60-72, seven minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. But the entry of veteran Robin Mendoza and a dizzying trapping defense changed the complexion of the game.

Scores:

First game:

ICTSI 57—Daep 12, Cortez 11, Castro 9, Magsumbol 9, Franco 6, Omolon 4, Yap 2, Cuan 2, Ramos 1, Wilson 1, Sta. Maria 0, Manalo 0.

KUTITAP 53—Sison 10, Mercado 10, Salangsang 10, Gonzales 8, Baguio 8, Gelig 5, Bajar 0, Dy 0, Espiritu 0, Rivera 0.

Quarters: 13-17, 32-33,48-42, 57-53.

Second game:

ANA 92—Capus 17, Pascual 15, D. Mendoza 13, Vilar 11, Tubid 11, De Castro 9, Oreta 8, Artadi 4, Mendoza 4, Flores 0, Torres 0.

ATENEO-PIONEER 82—Alvarez 14, Avenido 14, Noble 12, Ferrer 11, Mamaril 10, Villanueva 10, Fonacier 6, Membrere 3, Bugia 2, De la Rosa 0, Cruz 0.

Quarters:19-19, 42-44, 58-70, 92-82.

Sebastian claims Sicat pocketed PWA money

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NEWLY elected Philippine Weightlifting Association president Jaime Sebastian yesterday said they will go after former PWA head Rodolfo Sicat whom they accused of pocketing P.7 million in funds the Philippine Sports Commission gave to the association.

Sebastian, who took over from Sicat last Oct. 29, said his predecessor "misappropriated and spent hard-earned, taxpayers' money" during the past two years that he was the association chief.

Based on the records obtained from the PSC, Sicat received a total of P786,640.40 from the agency as part of the national athletes' training and exposure expenses.

But Sebastian, who is also the president of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines, claimed that Sicat submitted "padded receipts" to the PSC as part of the liquidation and that more than half of the amount was left unaccounted for.

"Mr. Sicat can't dispute this, because numbers don't lie," said Sebastian, who claimed that he has records to prove all his allegations.

Sebastian cited the Baguio City Luzon Open championship last December, which was the qualifying for the 2001 Southeast Asian Games, where Sicat supposedly asked the PSC for P253,100 budget for 150 delegates.

It turned out that only 31 athletes took part in the event, said Sebastian, and Sicat failed to give back the excess funds to the PSC.

Sicat also got P68,680 for "purchase of vitamins and supplies" of the athletes, but only P42,000 were spent out of that amount, according to Sebastian.

Sicat, who can't be reached for comment, has sacked Sebastian two months ago, jeopardizing his pension and benefits for being a multi-awarded national weightlifter during his prime.

And making things worse for Sebastian, the Philippine Olympic Committee continues to recognize Sicat as the duly elected PWA president despite the election that took place last month where the PWA board unanimously elected Sebastian as PWA head.

Jordan's 44 not enough

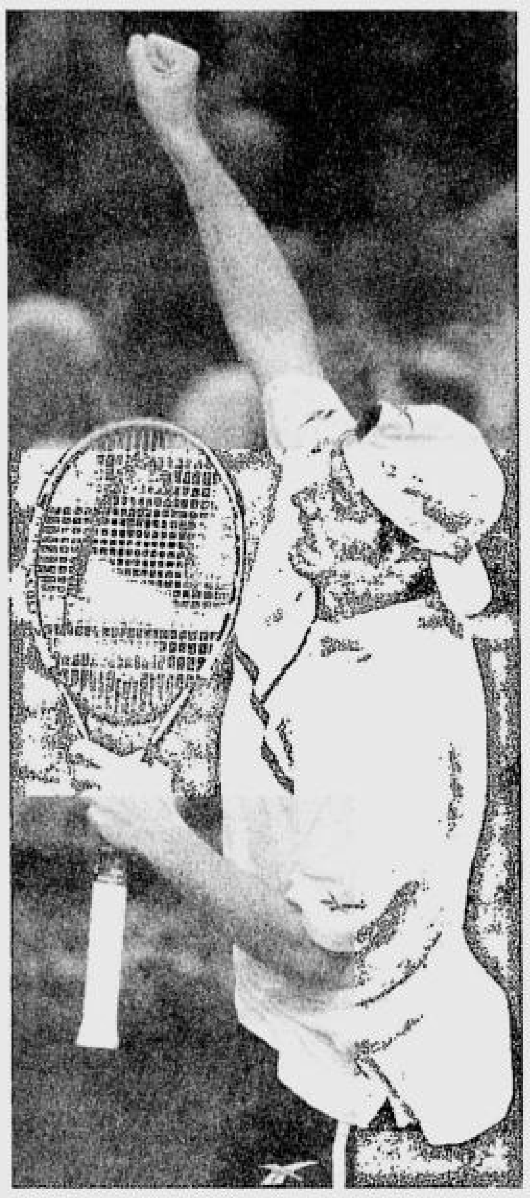
WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan gave an encore presentation of his "Last Shot" and scored a season-high 44 points in his best game of his comeback, but he also matched the longest losing streak of his NBA career as Utah beat Washington, 101-92.

Jordan made more shots than the rest of his team combined Friday, but Karl Malone scored 30 points and Donyell Marshall had 28—both season highs—as the Jazz sent the Wizards to their sixth straight loss.

Suns 95, Lakers 83

In Phoenix, Penny Hardaway scored 20 points and Stephon Marbury had 18 to lead five Phoenix players in double figures as the Suns handed the Los Angles Lakers their first loss of the season.

Complete results: Utah 101, Washington 92; Philadelphia 98, Atlanta 78; Minnesota 120, Indiana 113, 2OT; Charlotte 96, Miami 87; New Jersey 109, New York 83; San Antonio 105, Cleveland 91; Phoenix 95, LA Lakers 83; Sacramento 105, Chicago 71; Seattle 100, Golden State 91; Toronto 94, LA Clippers 85. *AP*



MASTERS CUP

Sebastian Grosjean of France punches the air to celebrate his 6-4, 6-2, win over Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Saturday that put him into the final of the Tennis Masters Cup in Sydney, Australia against world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Juan Carlos Ferrero. AP

Hasim sees knockout win

LAS VEGAS—Hasim Rahman sees himself hitting the jackpot again. Lennox Lewis believes he will reclaim the WBC and IBF heavyweight titles he lost on a one-punch knockout April 22 in South Africa.

Lewis keeps calling the right-hand blow that knocked him out a lottery punch, and contends Rahman can't do it again. "I just want to go out there and outbox him, show him a superior boxer," said Lewis, who aims to become a champion for a third time. "I feel like I'm supposed to knock him out," the 29-year-old Rahman said.

The 36-year-old Lewis is a 7-2 favorite to win the rematch Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila) in the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Each fighter is to make a minimum of $10 million.

Lewis admits he should have taken Rahman more seriously in the first fight. This time, Lewis says, he's much better prepared mentally and physically.

In South Africa, the 6-foot-5 (1.96 meters) Lewis weighed a career-high 253 pounds (114 kilograms). On Thursday, he weighed in at 246 1/2 pounds (111 kilograms). Rahman weighed in at 236 (106 kilograms).

It's Lewis' lowest weight since his draw with Evander Holyfield on March 13, 1999. It's the lowest Rahman has been since he was knocked out in the eighth round by Oleg Maskaev on Nov. 6, 1999. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA Preseason NIT, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN
NBA—Philadelphia 76ers vs New Jersey Nets at 9 p.m. on NBN 4
MOTOR SPORTS: Macau Grand Prix 2001 at 2 p.m. on Star Sports
APRC Rally at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: LPGA—Sports Today Open, Second Round at noon (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports
LPGA Cisco World Ladies Match Play Championship, Final Round at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Payla advances

WARSAW—Violito Payla beat Canadian Sebastian Couthier, 26-8, Friday night to crash into the flyweight finals of the Feliks Stamm International Boxing Championships at the Sports Hall here.

Fellow Filipino Vincent Palicte, however, dropped his bantamweight semifinal bout against Pole Andres Liczik.

Featherweight Roel Laguna likewise bowed to another Pole Kazyszf Szot, 24-9, in the morning semifinal, leaving Team Caltex Phils. with two bronze medals and at least one silver in the tournament.

Payla, however, has a tough fight ahead as he is slated to meet another Pole—Andzy Dzanty— in the final.

NTA ANA PARK

BREEDERS' CUP WINNER

Sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier (middle) is all smiles after receiving the trophy from four lovely muses following River Bee's victory in the Juvenile Colts race of the 6th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup festival yesterday at the Santa Ana Park. Other big winners yesterday were Jun Almeda's Golden Ballet (Juvenile Fillies) and Be Quiet (Sprint). VAL HANDUMON

Breeders' Cup: Marho's early Christmas gift to *kareristas*

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

BREEDERS' Cup day is the time of the year when all *kareristas* flock to the Santa Ana Park and watch electrifying horse racing action unfold before them.

The fireworks actually started yesterday but the bigger explosions are expected today when the Three-Year-Old Colts, Three-Year-Old Fillies and Classic championships are held.

I'll be at the Santa Ana Park mainly to watch how Wind Blown, Batangas Entry and Ilocandia Slew perform in their respective races.

Wind Blown, as everybody says, is *patok na patok* in the Classic where the fight, considering the overwhelming pick live up to expectations, has been reduced to second place.

Batangas Entry is also a hot pre-race pick in the Three-Year-Old Colts but what I really wanted to see is how coupled entry Lyonnais and Flaming Bullet would fare against Paolo Mendoza's speedy galloper.

In the Three-Year-Old Fillies, Ilocandia Slew appears to have the slight edge but my Silip Boy said he's got a hunch Myther Bunag's horse has a bigger chance of winning if he brings along his lucky charm—lovely wife Susan.

And of course, I'll also be at the Park to congratulate the men behind Marho like Putch Puyat, Sandy Javier, Hermie Esguerra, Jun Almeda and Roger Tandiama for putting up this kind of event, sort of the group's early Christmas gift to the racing public.

* * *

This may be late but still, I have another one for Hermie Esguerra's highly popular *pa*-contest in the San Miguel Beer-backed 6th Marho Breeders' Cup.

The last time around, I included 15 of Hermie's horses in one sentence. The rule states only 12 are needed so here they are:

"KAYANG KAYA ng UMAATIKABOng si WIND BLOWN ang mga kalaban sa Marho Breeders' Cup Classic kaya matapos kumain ng siling LABUYO, SUMASAGITSIT at RUMARAGASA na humangos ang ALL SMILES at NAKAGAYAK na si ALIW dahil SABIK na sabik kubrahin ang TUMATAGINTING na CASH on delivery."

* * *

Those who failed to see how Silver Story lost in the recent Philtobo-Mitra Cup 2 need not fret.

The widely-followed horse racing show "Kabayo, Karera, Karerista" or "KKK" for short airs a special presentation of the Oct. 14 racing festival on Friday, Nov. 23, from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. over IBC-13.

To be shown are highlights of the Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies, Three-Year-Old Fillies and Three-Year-Old Colts where Silver Story wound up last and Batangas Entry won.

Host is Manny Viray. Don't miss it!

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana
By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Super Sharp 2. Sky Hawk 3. High Roller 4. Art of Rose 5. Gold Pyramid
Race 2—1. CJ's Pride 2. Pinagpala 3. Digging for Gold 4. Double Header 5. Pacific Dancer
Race 3—1. Carlo's Charm 2. Imperial Act
Race 4—1. James Joy 2. Patikim 3. Headline News 4. Avalanche 5. Top Quest
Race 5—1. I Love You 2. Ilocandia Slew 3. Serena 4. I Swear
Race 6—1. Clear Sky 2. Heavy Metal 3. Imperial Passion/Baptism of Fire 4. Crystal Horizon 5. Prince of Africa
Race7—1. The Fox 2. Morena 3. Bound to Be
Race 8—1. Batangas Entry 2. Flaming Bullet/ Lyonnais
Race 9—1. Free Entrance 2. Mark's Treasure 3. Ryuji 4. Spectacular Queen 5. Hot Lips
Race 10—1. Mrs. Big 2. Free Bee 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Foolish Heart
Race 11—1. Wind Blown 2. Gold Edition
Race 12—1. Hollywood Park 2. Real Dancer 3. Pistol Red 4. Powerhouse
Race 13—1. Terrific 2. Love and Kisses 3. All Grace/Golden Indy 4. Regal Mischief
Race 14—1. Double Check 2.Corporate Law 3. Precious Moment 4. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 5. Nyora Alding
Race 15—1. Ladies' Night 2. Dragon Doding 3. Piker's Glory 4. Gold Prosperity 5. Rose in Bloom 6. So Generous

Silverio tops Asian F3 tilt

ZHUHAI, China—Jojo Silverio of Standard Insurance-Caltex-Team Tom's made motorsports history by becoming the first champion in the inaugural season of the Asian Formula 3 Challenge, which came to a fitting end at the Zhuhai International Circuit here recently.

Silverio finished second to British driver Mark Goddard of Castrol-Ghiasports twice in the 11th and 12th rounds, but these were enough to capture the overall championship organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and sponsored by Shell, Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Marlboro, Toyota, Norkis-Yamaha and Casino Filipino.

"I'm very happy to win (the title). It was another exciting season for me," said Silverio, who is hoping to follow the footsteps of his equally-popular father Dante Silverio in terms of motorsports achievements.

Overall, Silverio finished with a runaway total of 177 points against 149 points of Goddard in the prestigious 12-part series also held at the Batangas Racing Circuit and Subic Intenational Raceway.

Shell scooter resumes in Cavite

THE SHELL Advance Super Scooter Championships 2001 shift into high gear today with Jaime Barcial, R.B. Santos, Chito Barcenas, Mark Anthony Barcial and Gilbert Maningas hoping to keep the lead in their respective categories at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

Barcial tries to redeem himself from back-to-back setbacks in the fourth and fifth legs and keep his precarious lead over Mark Anthony Chua and defending champion Jolet Jao in the expert open category— centerpiece event in this annual series organized by the EL. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance.

Winner of the first three legs, Barcial has a five-leg aggregate of 154 points against 139 points of Chua and 124 points of Jao.

Equally interesting is the battle in the multi-brand 50cc category with the Malabon-based Santos nursing a slim nine-point lead over Ivan Santiago, 169-160.

HOLE-IN-ONE AT SOUTHWOODS

The Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club had its first winner of a Mitsubishi Adventure GLS for scoring a hole-in-one during its recent Halloween Tournament. Rolando Geronimo, a bank executive, aced the 180 yard No. 17 of the famed Masters Course. Geronimo (third from left) is shown receiving the key from Yoshizumi Kurata (Mitsubishi senior EVP). Also shown (from left) are Mel Dizon (Mitsubishi senior VP marketing), Nario Hada (Mitsubishi executive VP treasury) and Alfredo Mendoza (sports and games committee chair).

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Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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PAGUNSANS COLLAPSE

Kempis, Vinluan win U-Bix title by 1

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

VINLUAN (right) and Kempis whoop it up after topping the Ubix Riviera Pro-Am Championship.

By Al S.Mendoza

SILANG, Cavite—In a bizarre collapse that hounded them up to the last hole, Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan lost a concededly won crown yesterday in the U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am by a painful one stroke.

The winners were Noli Kempis and Don Erwin Vinluan, who even got breaks in the freakest manner to pocket the top purse of P134,248 from the P1-million pot put up by U-Bix president Bert Bravo.

The 42-year-old Kempis and the 24-year-old Vinluan finished with a 1-over-par 72 at Langer, their best ever after a 79-74-74 for 299.

The 49-year-old Juanito and the 23-year-old Juvic ballooned to a 79, their worst ever after a 77-74-70 for 300 in the series supported by DHL Philippines, San Miguel Beer, Pagcor, Pacific Grove Tagaytay and Mizuno.

Juanito and Juvic, the first father-and-son tandem in the 39-year-old Pro-Am, lost a six-shot margin in only nine holes ignited mainly by one sordid break.

On the par-3 4th, Juanito's tee shot fell into a hazard after it hit the ball of Kempis and Vinluan that was already resting on the edge of the green.

Despite salvaging a bogey, the Pagunsans' lead dropped to three. After a double bogey on 8, they were level with Kempis and Vinluan for the tournament.

Another bogey on 9 gave Kempis and Vinluan the lead, which they lost only on 16 after a three-putt bogey against a screeching 25-feet birdie by Juvic.

But Kempis and Vinluan came right back, birdieing 17 on Vinluan's 5-foot uphiller to even up matters going to 18.

The Pagunsans had the brightest chance to win it when Juanito hit the center of the fairway of the par-4 18th.

But after Vinluan found the trap left of the green, Juvic, a gold medalist in the last SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur, babied his approach and fell into a ravine for a one-stroke penalty.

Juanito pitched poorly and, again, Juvic putted 3 feet short from 16 feet as the Pagunsans closed out with a double bogey against a bogey by Kempis and Vinluan.

Kempis, whose best finish before yesterday was second in the 1998 Philip Morris Classic at Canlubang, rammed home the winning putt—a precarious sidehiller from 8 feet after Vinluan's uphill putt from 35 feet.

"*Sinwerte lang kami at minalas naman iyong mag-ama* (We were lucky while they were not)," said Kempis, whose check of P134,248 was his biggest since he turned pro some two decades back.

"*Wala eh* (We didn't have the luck this time," said Juvic.

Said Juanito: "*Akala ko* playoff *na pagdating sa* 18."

For a while, Armando Eso and Neil Catalan grabbed the lead after the 13th. But their fling with glory was short-lived, double bogeying 14 to fade away from contention in no time.

Eso and Catalan shot 73 for 302 in a third place tie with Felix Fernando and Marlon Dizon (72).

Other scores:

304—M. Pucay-J. Roy 78-73-80-73, E.Ababa-M. Dumandan 76-74-77-77.

309—J.Casas-J. Saragoza 77-81-74-77.

310—T. Lascuna-T. Escano 80-77-78-75, G. Rosales-D. Pizarro 78-77-76-79.

311—W. Superal-J. Delariarte 73-85-75-78

312—R. Gaviola-J. Laput 84-76-76-76, A. Balan-J. Gironella 79-81-76-76, J. Cedo-J. Rocha 75-82-77-78, V.Lascuna-J. Bayron 78-77-75-82.

314—Choi-Lee 77-85-76-76, R.Minoza-B. Minoza 78-83-76-77, M. Manubay-A.Asistio 78-80-75-81.

316—G. Cantada-E. Lopez 73-84-83-76.

Webb ahead

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—Karrie Webb accomplished a rare feat Friday to move closer to a familiar place.

The two-time LPGA Tour Player of the Year from Australia shot one of only two sub-par rounds to open a four-shot lead at the season-ending Tyco/ADT Championship.

Webb matched Laura Davies of England for the low round of the day with a one-under-par 71 for a 138, avoiding trouble most of the field found at the windy Trump International Golf Club.

The Philippines' Dorothy Delasin ballooned to an 82 for a 156. *AP*

Here's to long life

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SILANG, Cavite—He need not say it in his closing remarks yesterday during the awarding ceremonies of the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am as the big, red sun was setting in the horizons. Everybody knows it already.

Bert Bravo, top honcho of the U-Bix Corporation that bankrolled the main bulk of prize money in the just-ended U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am at Riviera's langer, has said some months back that for the next four years ending in 2005, he will toss in a minimum of P1 million as prize money for the fabled classic.

"My love for the game has spurred me to continually support our pros in my own humble way," said Bert, who has had four golf majors staged since the '90s, including the U-Bix Philippine Open at Wack Wack only a while back.

However, Bert's financial support for the well-loved Pro-Am hinges on Comm. Danny Pizarro being Riviera being president up to 2005.

"I'm flattered, of course," said Danny. "I can only hope that I'd be around till 2005 so that we can hold this tournament yearly here at Riviera. It is not everyday that you find such a man so generous like Bert."

Bert came early yesterday and watched some drama unfolding from the veranda of the Riviera clubhouse overlooking the 18th green.

Before he made the two-hour trip from Makati, Bert made sure the kalderetang kambing from his Caffe Appassionato on N. Garcia St. in Makati City is cooked and delivered at the clubhouse by 5 p.m.

"It's our humble birthday gift to Taby (Tabaniag)," he said when he arrived, smiling broadly as usual. "Yes, you are right *kabsat*. Kalderetang kambing is Taby's secret to long life."

Taby just turned 82 but if you know him that well like I do, he thinks and moves like a 50-year-old. Sprightly still. Sharp and witty.

"I must say I share Taby's genes of long life," said Bert. "Like Taby and, yes, you too, I'm also an Ilocano. My parents were born in San Quintin up north in Ilocoslovakia."

Listen to Taby: "Goat meat is the only meat I consider as a health food. Ilocanos live long because of kalderetang kambing."

If you haven't yet tried the goat kaldereta at Caffe Appassionato (where they also serve the best coffee in the Jupiter St. area of Makati), you are missing half of your lives, fellas.

"For golfers, kalderetang kambing is also good for putting," said Taby. "*Wala pang masyadong kolesterol.*"

So, what are you waiting for?

'Bata' prevails

DESPITE a long and tiring flight from Tokyo, Efren "Bata" Reyes downed hometown hero Radoslaw Babica, 7-3, in the opener of the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland Friday.

Up next for Reyes is last year's champion Steve Knight of Britain.

The University of Warsaw arena was jam-packed with Babica supporters but Reyes was also cheered on by a contingent of Filipinos.

The Tradition gets new host

EASTRIDGE debuts as a new host venue when the seventh staging of The Tradition—the much-awaited yearend event which embraces the purist concept of golf slated on Dec. 4, 6 and 7 in three different courses.

There will be nothing at stake but club and individual pride in a tournament among 10 of Metro Manila's top courses which puts The Tradition on a different plane than the highly-commercialized events that mushroomed through the years.

On its second year of participation, Eastridge gets the chance to host the first round on Dec. 4. Two of the four original members, Canlubang and Sta. Elena, will be the venues for the second and third rounds on Dec. 6 and 7, respectively.

The other teams in the roster are Manila Southwoods and Luisita which are the other original members, Alabang, Wack Wack, Forest Hills, Valley and Orchard.

Sta. Elena will again parade a balanced lineup which is a virtual copy of the team which emerged as champion last year.

Manila Southwoods and Wack Wack, meanwhile, loom as the strongest threats although the rest of the entries are also exerting efforts at forming competitive teams for one of the year's most anticipated events.

Pinoy Cuppers falter

GOTEMBA, Japan—The Philippine pair of Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello performed its worst with a one over par 73 that sent them to the tailend of the 24-team field after three rounds of the World Cup of Golf here. New Zealand's Michael Campbell and David Smail lead by three shots over the US tandem of Tiger Woods and David Duval.

RP netters rule women's doubles

THIRD seed Czarina Mae Arevalo and Rina Caniza of the Philippines won the women's doubles title after repulsing top seeds Radhika Tulpule and Shruti Dhawan, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday in the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts.

The local pair, who ousted second seeds Radhika Mandke and Sonal Phadke of India, 6-4, 6-0, last Friday won P8,000.

Patrick John Tierro of Olongapo City defeated Nico Riego de Dios, 6-0, 6-2, to win the boys' division 2 title in the juniors competition.

Meanwhile, top seed Johnny Arcilla shoots for the men's singles title against third seed Adelo Abadia at 1 p.m. today.

Arcilla, the country's No. 1 player, defeated No. 14 Cris Cuarto, 6-4, 6-1, to reach his second straight finals.

"It will be a tough match. I have to be more consistent, especially with my serve," said the 24-year-old Arcilla, who eliminated Abadia in the semifinals last year. He lost the title to Korean Chung Hee Sung.

Abadia, who donned the national colors for four years, eyes revenge over Arcilla, whose most recent title victory was the Escudero Cup in San Pablo City last month.

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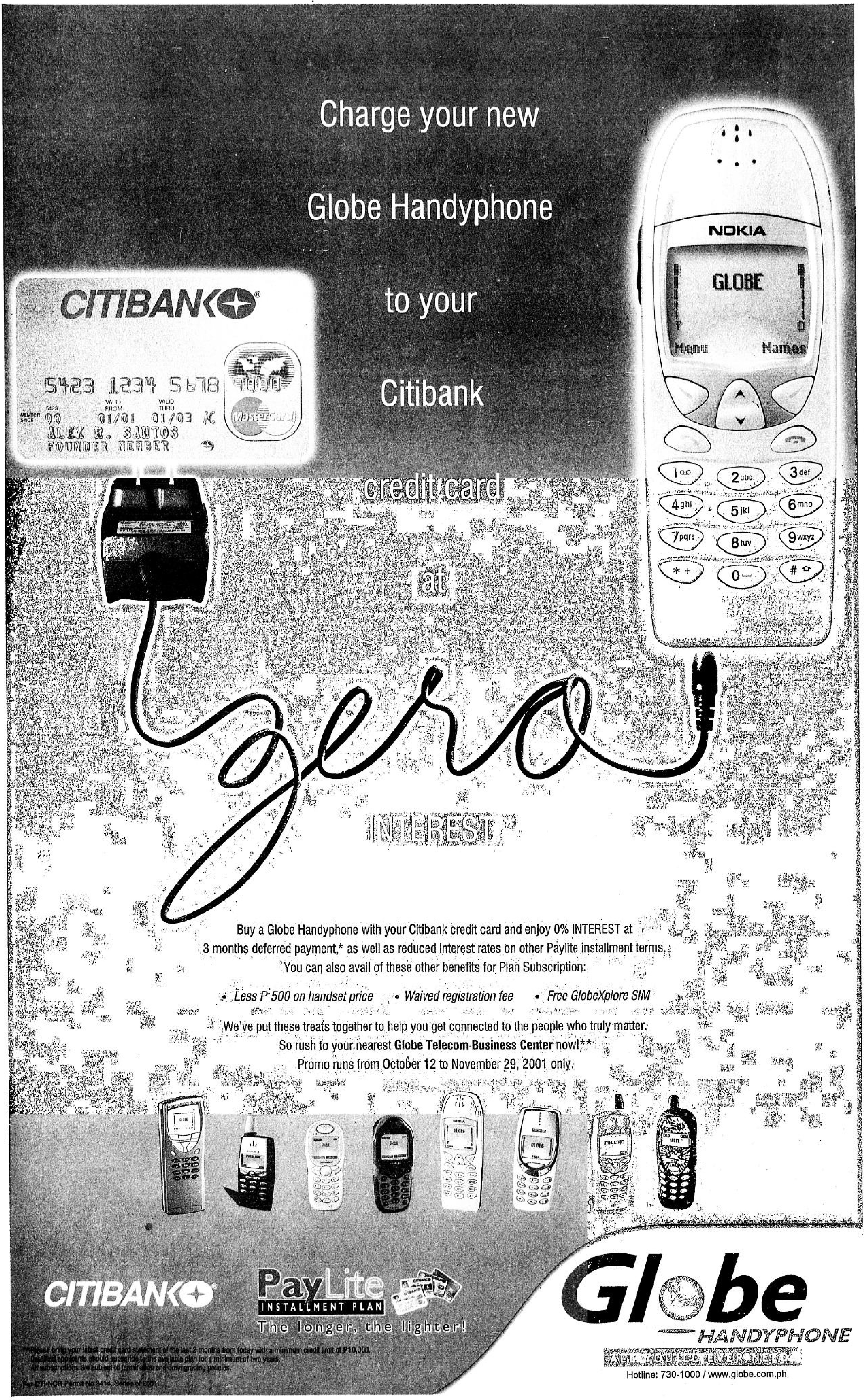
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Firm selling new technology broke laws, says Greenpeace A22
Firemen receive 13th month pay A22

Nida friend to take lie test

BY JEROME ANING AND NORMAN BORDADORA

BLANCA

AN OLD friend of murdered actress Nida Blanca will submit herself to a polygraph examination tomorrow either at the Philippine National Police or the National Bureau of Investigation.

Candelaria "Dingding" Tantoco, a neighbor of the late actress in White Plains, Quezon City, told investigators she was willing to undergo the lie detector test to clear her name once and for all.

A source at the National Bureau of Investigation revealed this even as police admitted they still do not have enough evidence to pin down Blanca's part-time driver for the death of the popular actress who was found dead in San Juan on Nov. 7.

"She (Tantoco) desperately wants to end speculations on her complicity in Ms Blanca's death so she decided to submit herself to a polygraph test to clear doubts about her," the NBI source explained.

Persistent but unconfirmed reports say that Tantoco was one of the last people to see the actress alive and that she might have a hand in the latter's death.

Tantoco was seen during Blanca's televised burial openly weeping by the coffin at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City last Nov. 13.

NIDA FRIEND/ A22

PGH 'still for masses'

BY JEROME ANING

DESPITE the recent increases in fees at the Philippine General Hospital, administrators of the government-run medical institution insist PGH has not ceased to be a "hospital for the masses."

PGH director Juan Ma. Pablo Nañagas and his four assistant directors said in a statement that the hospital "remains committed to its mission of caring for the sick, especially the less privileged sector of our society."

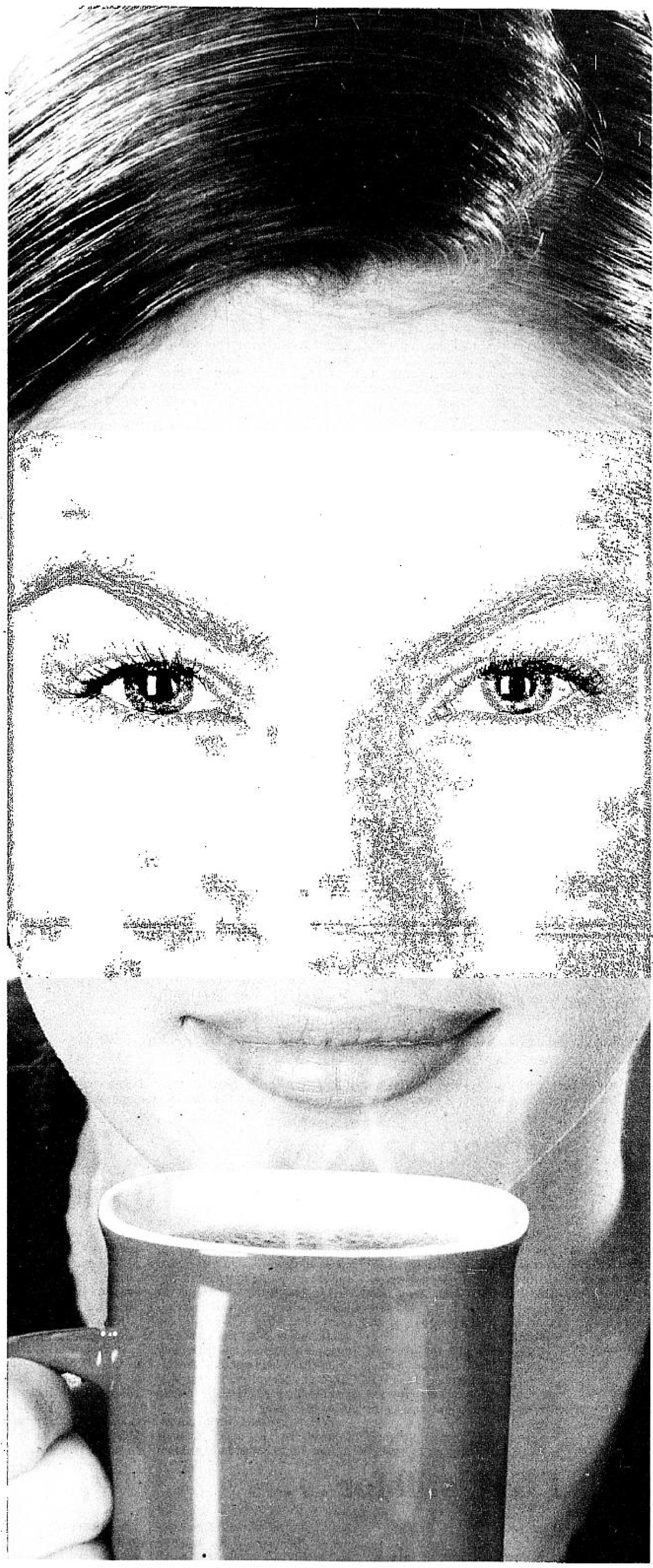
They justified the rate increases by saying that these were "based on the lowest prevailing rates in other hospitals, and that the rates for charity patients were based on a percentage of actual direct cost."

They said the adjustments were adopted to "somehow augment our meager resources to sustain, if not enhance, our capability to deliver health care to PGH patients." About 250 doctors, hospital workers, medical students and urban poor groups last Monday demonstrated at the hospital grounds on Taft Avenue in Ermita, Manila to protest the increases.

The PGH said it set up a medical social service to screen patients on the basis of their capacity to pay for certain hospital services. Specific procedures are followed when a patient is truly indigent, according to hospital officials.

The director said the hospital continues to maintain charity service that provides for free accommodation, free professional services, free medicine up to P1,500, and discounted rates for laboratory diagnostic procedures.

PGH STILL/ A22



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Firm selling new technology broke laws, says Greenpeace

By Alcuin Papa

THE TECHNOLOGY which Metro Manila mayors claim is the answer to all the garbage woes is nothing more than a fancy incinerator peddled by a company with a "criminal record" that has violated environmental laws all over the world, according to Greenpeace.

Von Hernandez, spokesperson for the environmental group, said the "thermoselect" system proposed by Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez, among others, is the "same as an incinerator." He opposed Marquez's claim that the waste disposal process does not involve incineration.

Developed by the US-based Interstate Waste Technologies Inc., thermoselect uses high temperature to fully convert garbage into useable minerals and potable water, according to Roger van den Berghe, Interstate's consultant in the Philippines.

Hernandez maintained that the use of incinerators is a "wrong move" because it would "allow the introduction of dangerous, highly pollutive and economically expensive waste management systems whose use ironically goes against the spirit and intent of . . . laws."

"We are opposed to the use of incinerators, even if temporarily, because this would open the floodgates for an economic and ecologically detrimental waste management system," Hernandez told the **Inquirer**. "It is ecologically repressive."

Hernandez added the full and proper implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act is the key to solving the garbage problem.

"Instead of sabotaging the law, the government should implement it," Hernandez said.

He pointed out that the non-implementation of laws is "due in part to the failure of Congress to appropriate much needed funds for their implementation, and yet Congress is already thinking of tampering with the laws."

The Clean Air Act, or Republic Act No. 8749, bans the use of incinerators. Sen. John Osmeña has filed a bill in the Senate to repeal the ban.

Another bill, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, or RA No. 9003, requires local government units to reduce their waste disposal by 25 percent within five years. To achieve this target, the law stipulates that LGUs must segregate, recycle, compost and re-use the materials processed from waste.

According to Hernandez, Congress should have appropriated some P750 million for the Clean Air Act alone.

"Compare this to the P6.8 billion the government would be spending for an incinerator," he said.

Last week, 11 Metro Manila mayors met at the Makati City Hall to draft a request for Congress to amend the two environmental laws to pave the way for the use of incinerators.

The mayors clarified that the use of incinerators would be a "short-term" effort to head off the garbage crisis facing Metro Manila.

They said they would not abandon the waste segregation scheme being pushed by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

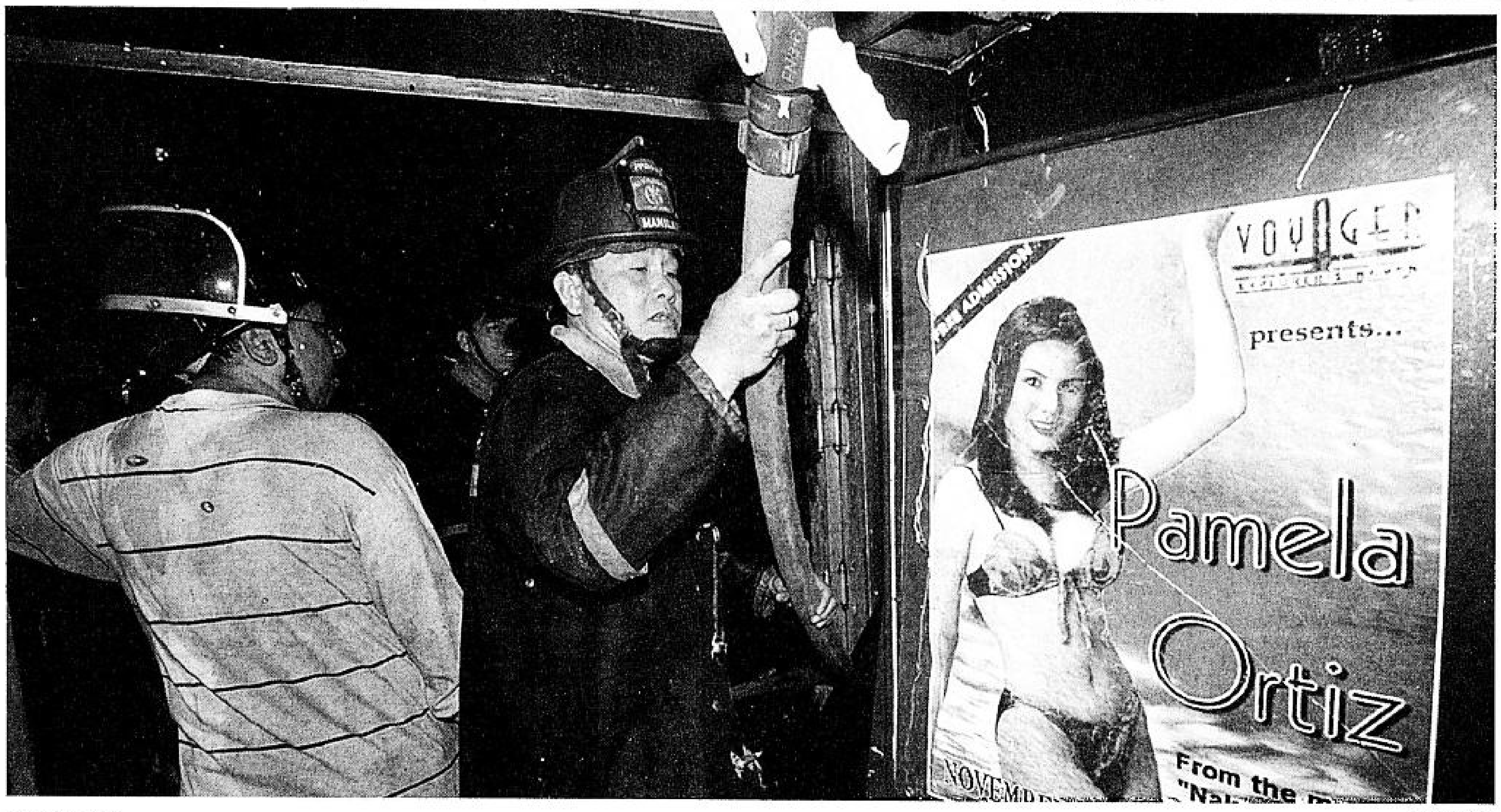
"We would continue with the scheme until Metro Manila residents are educated on how to segregate our waste," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, president of the Metro Mayors Council. "But in the meantime, we want to use incinerators."

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said that although incinerators could process only about 65 percent of the garbage in the metropolis, this would at least ease the problem.

Earlier, Hernandez said the mayors were pushing for the use of incinerators because the local executives would stand to earn "huge amounts in possible kickbacks and commissions" from the project.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos recently told reporters the government does not have the funds to operate incinerators. But if local governments have the funds, then he would allow them to operate incinerators, Abalos said.

The MMDA wants the local executives to push for the implementation of the waste segregation scheme in their areas. The agency is also looking for new landfills to accommodate Metro Manila's garbage.



TOO HOT

ERIK ARAZAS

Firemen try to salvage what they can of a burning bar in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The ground-floor bar was part of a two-story building at the corner of Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and Santol Street that fire destroyed Friday morning. The blaze reportedly started in a second-floor bowling alley. Firemen estimated damage at P15 million.

San Sebastian changes not authorized, says NHI

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute has threatened to sue the curate of the Basilica of San Sebastian in Quiapo, Manila for undertaking what it called unauthorized alterations and repair of the church's altar and façade.

In a Nov. 15 letter, NHI chair Pablo Trillana III reminded Fr. Samson Silloriquez that Presidential Decree No. 266 strictly prohibits any person from modifying, repairing or destroying the original features of national shrines, monuments, landmarks and other edifices without prior approval by the institute.

The NHI has monitored changes made or being made, as initiated by Silloriquez, in the San Sebastian church. Among these changes are the silver re-plating and removal of the altar grades and the repainting of the altar and the façade.

Conservationists also complained to the NHI that a once white-washed statue of an angel became "colored" while the top of one of the tables at the altar was painted red and gold, which the conservationist said is in the Chinese style.

Trillana said such projects should be carried out in coordination with his office "to ensure that proper conservation and preservation principles, standards and methods are implemented in the basilica in full consideration and recognition of its status not only as a church property but also as a national historical landmark."

"While we appreciate His Reverence's desire to enhance or improve the basilica from his perspective," Trillana added, "we feel that national historical landmarks like it should be respected as part of Manila's and the entire country's historico-cultural heritage."

Trillana said that unless the priest gives the NHI a satisfactory explanation within 10 days, the NHI would be constrained to submit its evidence of the violations to the Officer of the Solicitor General for appropriate court action.

Violators of PD 260 face one to five years in jail or a fine of P1,000 to P10,000, or both.

The World Monuments Watch has included the neo-gothic steel church in the 1998 list of 100 endangered cultural heritage sites and historical landmarks in the world.

The World Monuments Watch called the centuries-old church a "heritage at risk" and said the church needs to be preserved to the full.

Firemen receive 13th month pay, cash gift

MORE than 14,000 firemen and civilian employees of the Bureau of Fire Protection received their 13th month pay and cash gift last Tuesday and Wednesday, according to BFP chief Francisco S. Senot.

The early payment caught most of the firemen and civilian employees unaware as they were expecting it either on the last week of this month or early in December.

Supt. Florante Cruz, chief of the BFP Finance services, said that in addition to the 13th month pay and cash gift, 1,813 firemen received their initial clothing allowance.

Cruz said each male BFP employee received a total of P11,247 and each female employee got P12,075.

"The early release of the 13th month pay and cash gift will enable firemen and civilian employees to go shopping early to avoid the Christmas rush," Senot explained. "I hope the early payment will help boost their morale, especially at this time when the country is faced with problems due to global economic uncertainties."

He said that in uncertain times, it is wise to heed the advice of President Macapagal-Arroyo to continue living a normal life, which includes going shopping, watching movies and taking the family out to dinner.

Cruz said the new BFP leadership has made it a policy to prioritize the giving of employee benefits as a way of motivating the employees to work harder.

Senot became acting chief of BFP in 2000. He was promoted to chief last month.

ZONTA IN TONDO

The Zonta Club of Manila conducts its Nutrition and Health Kiddie Class in Barangay San Antonio in Tondo, under the auspices of the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines headed by Director Susie Limbo. The class now has 70 children 4 to 6 years old. With them are (from left) club recording secretary Pie Puno, president Baby Perez-Sison and service committee chair Lalin Basilio.

18 PERCENT DOWN

2,149 rape cases in 10 months—Legarda

A TOTAL of 2,149 rape cases were reported to authorities in the 10 months to October this year, a decline of 472 cases or 18 percent compared to the 2,621 documented over the same period last year, Sen. Loren Legarda reported over the weekend.

Citing National Police statistics, Legarda, the Senate majority leader, said the figures translate to an average of seven rape cases reported daily this year as against almost nine last year.

She appealed to her colleagues in Congress for support in providing funds for the immediate implementation of two laws meant to speed up the prosecution of rapists and the assistance to their victims.

The senator was referring to the Rape Victims' Assistance and Protection Act which provides for the establishment of one rape crisis center in each province, and the Family Courts Act which mandates the creation of special courts that will handle domestic cases, including cases of incestuous rape.

Legarda lamented that up to now, Congress has failed to provide funds for the implementation of the two measures, both of which were enacted three years ago.

"We must now quickly provide funds for the implementation of the two laws in the proposed 2002 national budget," she said.

In the 10-month period under review, Southern Tagalog had 359 rape cases reported; Bicol, 265; Central Luzon, 193; Metro Manila, 156; Central Visayas, 150; Eastern Visayas, 133; Southern Mindanao, 128;

Western Mindanao, 118; Cagayan Valley and Central Mindanao, 108 each; Ilocos, 104; Northern Mindanao, 101; Western Visayas, 96; Caraga, 71; Cordillera Administrative Region, 48; and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, 11.

After rising by a yearly average of five percent since 1990, rape cases declined marginally to 3,145 incidents last year as against the 3,177 reported in 1999.

Convicted rapists now comprise more than half of the 1,874 inmates on death row as of end of October. Four of seven men put to death by lethal injection between February 1999 and January 2000 were condemned rapists.

PGH 'still for . . .

(From page A21)

For truly poor patients, the basic laboratory tests are provided free.

Hospital officials said their move is in accordance with the Health Sector Reform Agenda (HSRA), the government's response to the country's health service problems.

"HSRA seeks to institutionalize the concept of government medical facility attaining a significant degree of self-sustainability and viability, without diminishing the quality of health care service to indigent patients," Nañagas and the directors said in their statement.

PGH has always relied on government allocations for the bulk of its operating funds, they said.

But for the past five years, its annual allocation has not been adequate to meet operational expenses, much less allow the hospital to embark on a modernization program, they said.

Nañagas said the budgetary shortfall for PGH operations alone is estimated at P200 million annually.

Their donors, he said, "can only give so much, even as the PGH continues to spend for the rising cost of services and other direct costs."

"How PGH continues to cope with the changing times is one thing that sets it apart from other hospitals," the director and his assistants said. "We have persevered to sustain our operational viability even as we remain firm in our resolve to continue offering quality health care services for the poor."

According to the hospital officials, PGH, with its 3,962 medical and non-medical personnel, attends to a daily average of 2,015 out-patients (67 percent of which are "medically indigent"), 218 emergency patients and 1,600 in-patients.

The PGH administrators said the hospital is a state-owned university hospital under the University of the Philippines system functioning as a charity hospital, private hospital, cancer hospital, out-patient hospital and medical training facility all at the same time.

Nida friend to take . . .

(From page A21)

Blanca was found stabbed to death in her car in the 6th floor parking area of the Atlanta Centre Building on Annapolis Street, San Juan, where she worked as a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of Task Force Marsha which was formed to investigate the murder (named after her character in a popular sitcom), yesterday said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group still considers Blanca's part-time driver Antonio Borja as a witness, despite the presence of his fingerprints in the car where the actress was found dead.

"The left hand fingerprints that investigators retrieved are not conclusive," Espina said in a telephone interview. "There should be corroborating evidence. We should have more concrete . . . evidence."

Borja submitted himself to investigators when his name cropped up as a possible suspect because his fingerprints were found on the rear view mirror of Blanca's Nissan Sentra.

Borja denied any involvement in Blanca's death.

He said the last time he drove for Blanca was on Oct. 13 and that he used her Nissan Vanette and not her sedan.

"As of now, we are checking, counter-checking and validating our evidence," Espina said.

He said Blanca's family and the public should not fear that those responsible for Blanca's murder might slip out of the country.

"We are doing everything we can to identify them soon enough," Espina said.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Filipino businessman is among 'Flower Drum Song' financiers

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

A FILIPINO producer is behind the revival of "Flower Drum Song" in Los Angeles, where **Lea Salonga** is now wowing international audiences.

Businessman **Ernest Escaler** staked millions in the new version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, which opened Oct. 14 at the Mark Taper Forum in downtown LA.

The musical is scheduled to end its run on Dec. 2, but due to popular demand, it will be extended for another five weeks.

Lea, however, turned down the offer to star in the extended run since she has to return to Manila to fulfill other theater commitments.

Escaler, who is a brother of noted lensman **Pancho Escaler**, was invited by producer **Fritz Friedman** to be among the financiers of "Flower Drum Song."

"I was immediately interested and intrigued by the possibilities," Escaler said. "I am a big fan of Rodgers and Hammerstein. As soon as I saw it, I knew this musical had the makings of being a hit."

Escaler was thrilled that the principal players in the cast are Filipinos. Lea is paired for the first time with a Filipino leading man, **Jose Llana**, who has starred in other Broadway musicals like "Martin Guerre," "Rent" and "The King and I" (with **Lou Diamond Philips** in the lead).

INTRIGUED, INTERESTED. Ernest Escaler (right) joins "Flower Drum Song" stars (from left) Sandra Allen, Jose Llana and Lea Salonga.

Other Filipino cast members are **Jennifer Paz, Charlene Carabeo, Robert Pendilla** and **Blythe Matsui**.

Escaler joined the giddy cast during the opening night party, where he spoke about how honored he was to be involved in the production.

"This is without question the most thrilling and entertaining nights at the theater I've experienced," Escaler said. "The talent of everyone involved in this musical is world class all the way.

"Here is a powerful way to instill pride among Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the United States and the Philippines. This is also a way to enhance the image of Filipinos around the world."

Receptive to the offer

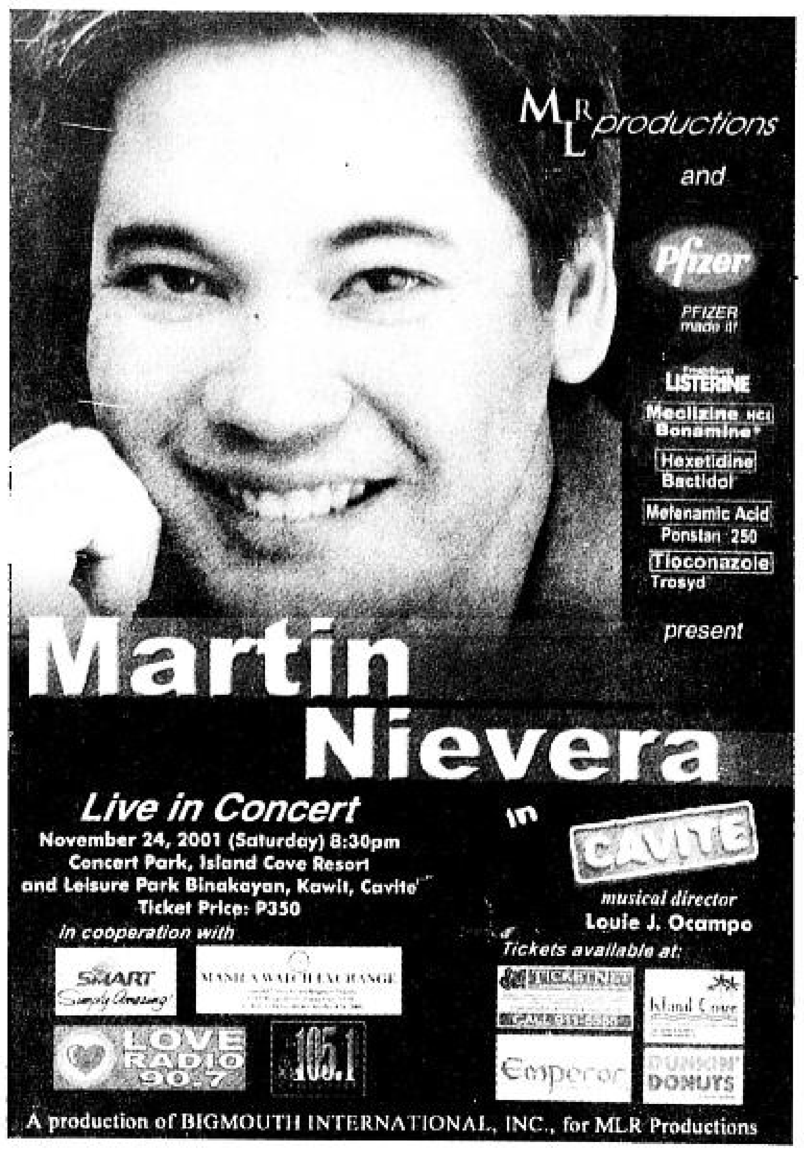
ATLANTIS Productions bigwig **Bobby Garcia** is reportedly negotiating with **Jose Llana** to be Lea Salonga's leading man in the company's production of "Proof," to be staged in Manila next year.

Llana is said to be very receptive to the idea of coming back to Manila and performing before Filipinos.

"Proof" marks Lea's first straight play after she starred in half a dozen world-class musicals.

SHAGGY IN MANILA

Grammy Award winner and reggae pop superstar Shaggy, who shot to international musical stardom with his hit single, "Oh Carolina," is coming to perform in a one-night concert, "Shaggy Live in Manila," Nov. 29, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City. The show is mounted by Viva Concerts, Uniprom and Midas Promotions.



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THE ONE - P 13 11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:50	BUBBLE BOY - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SERENDIPITY - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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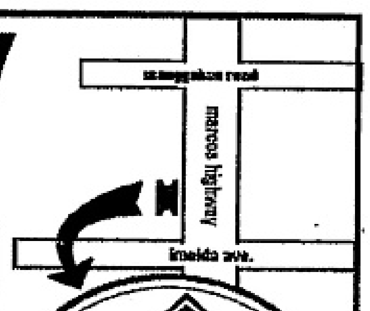

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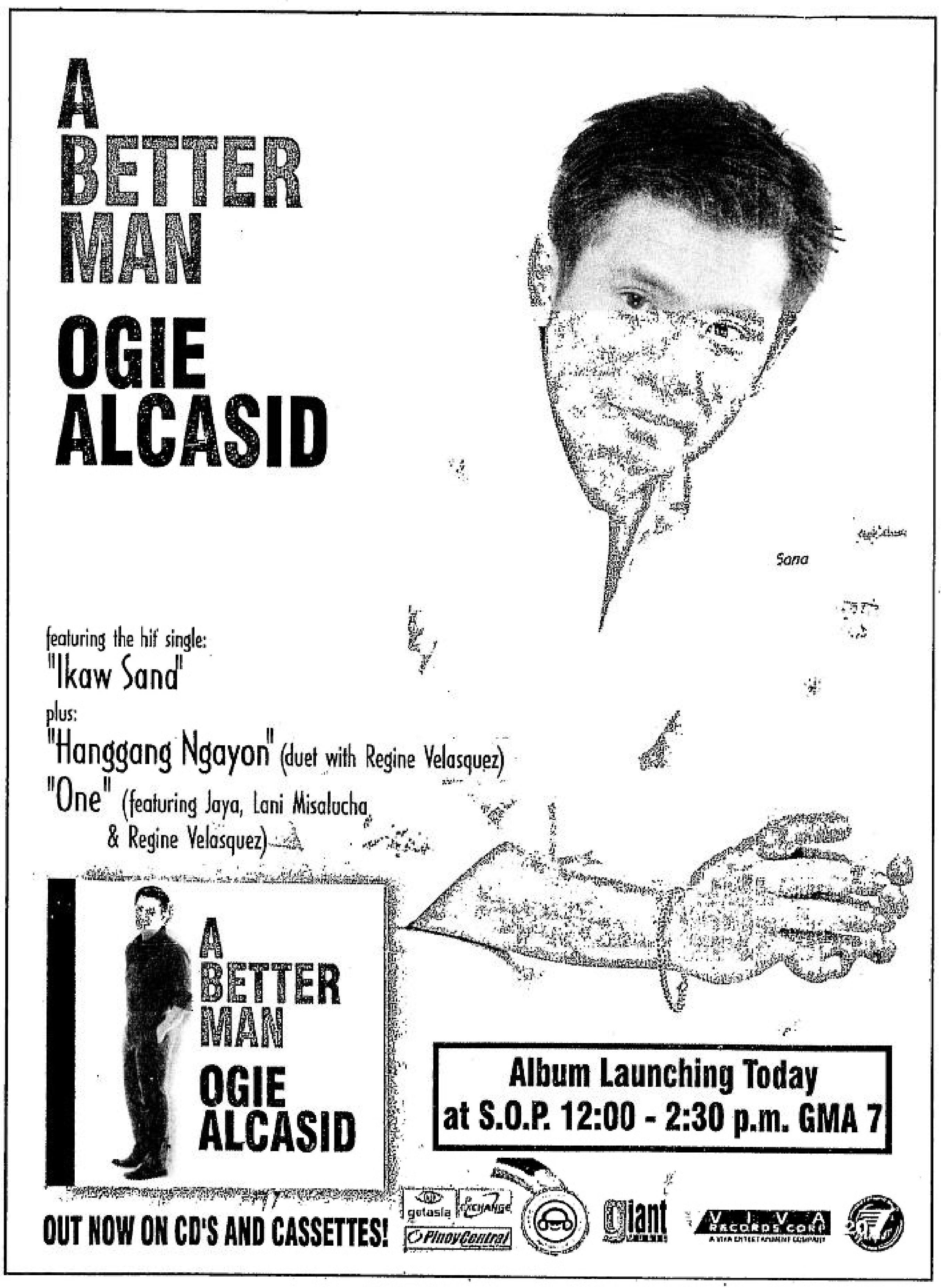

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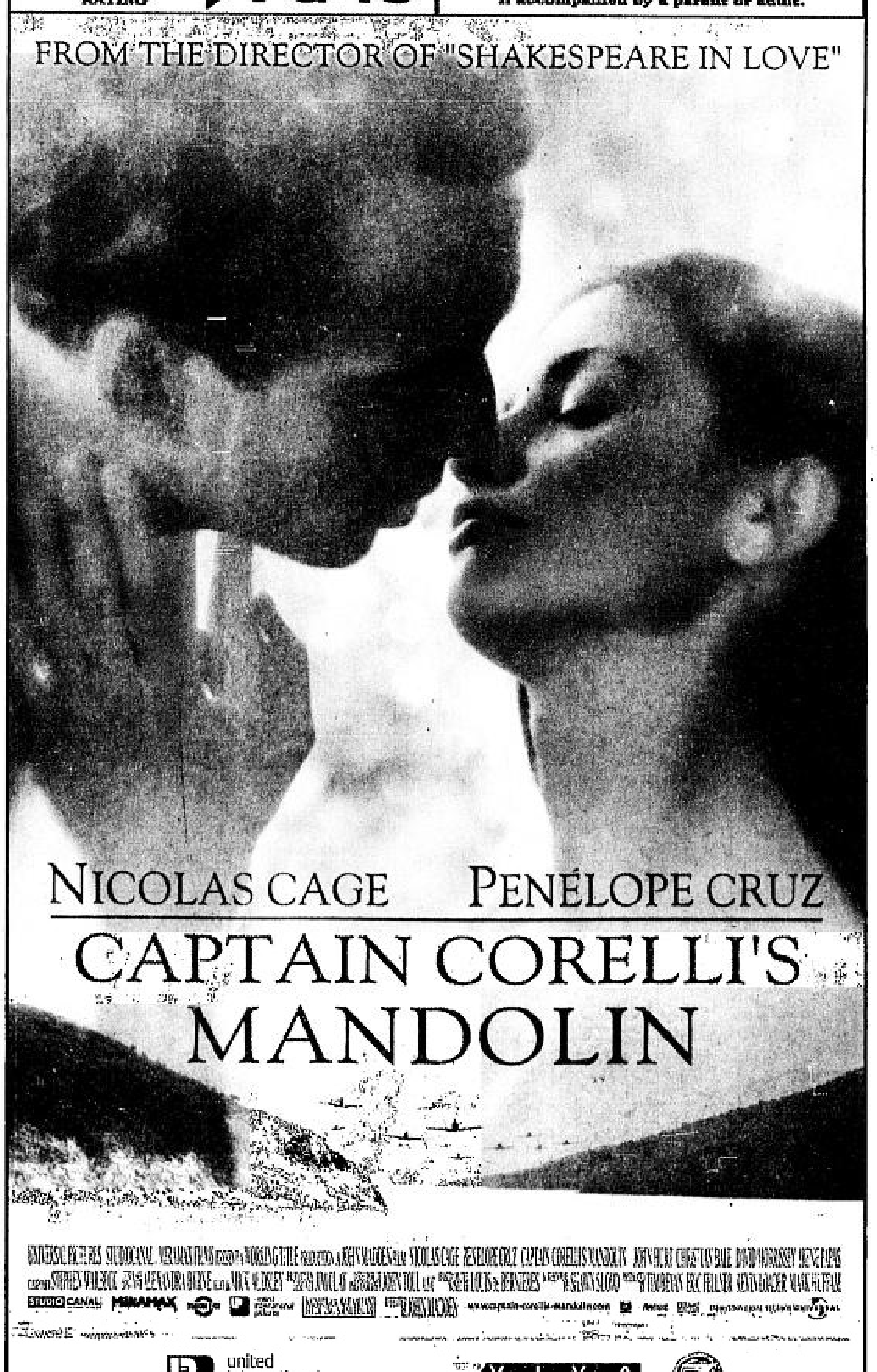

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Excitement and anticipation among young Filipinos nationwide for the inaugural MTV Asia Awards to be held in Singapore on February 2, 2002, will surely double with the launch of SMART's Barkada SIM Swap Promo on November 20, 2001, in Manila and on November 22 in the provinces.

SMART Communications, Inc. is the Philippine partner sponsor of the MTV Asia Awards which will pay tribute to the viewers' choices of the most amazing artists or artistic creations across the region.

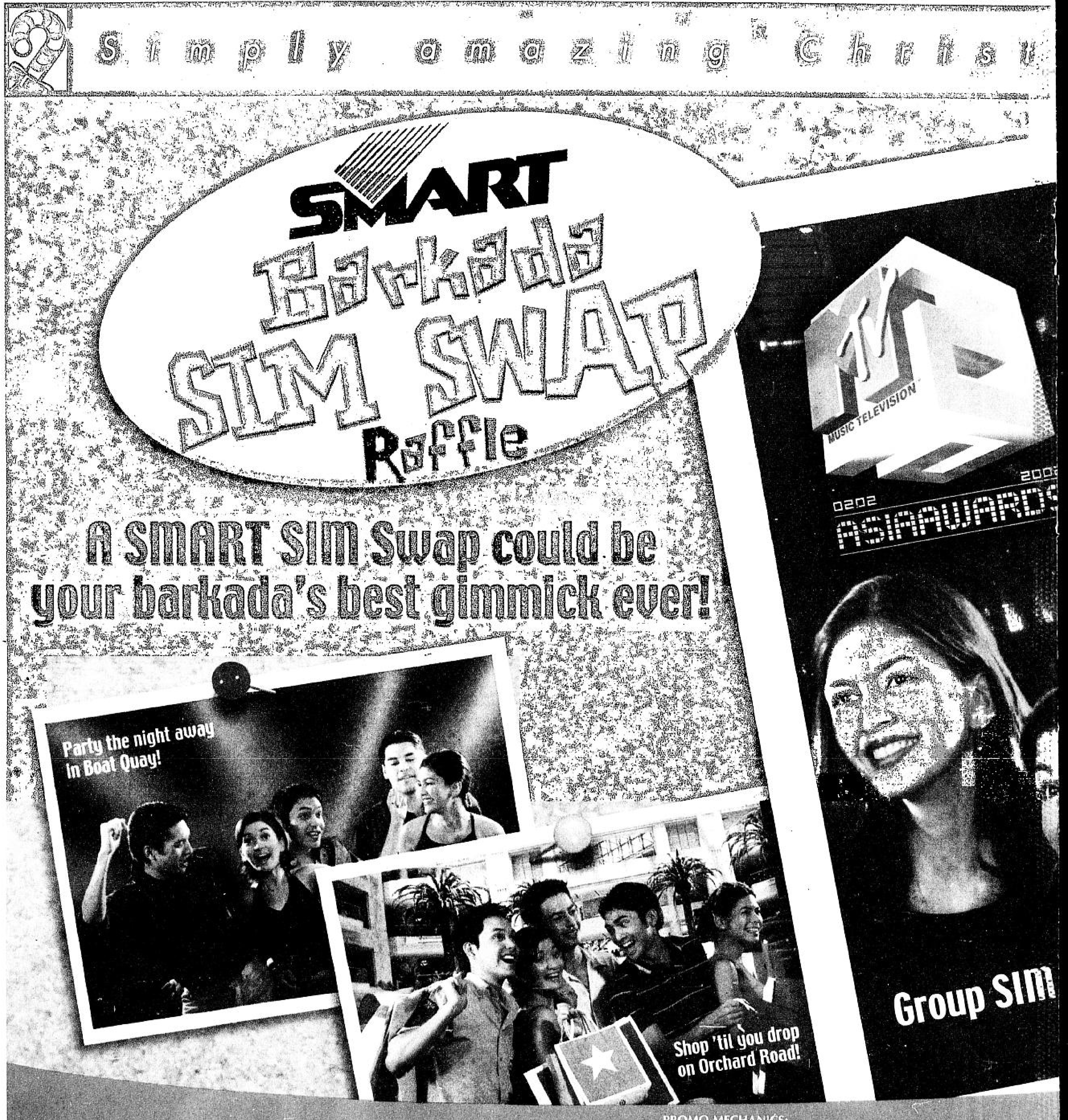
From November 20, 2001, to January 10, 2002, all SMART Group/Barkada SIM swappers with a minimum of four members each shall be given a raffle coupon for a chance to win a trip to Singapore for 4 plus 1 person to watch the MTV Asia Awards with Php 25,000.00 pocket money for each winning member.

All group SIM swappers should fill out the raffle coupon with their name, address, SMART Buddy/Gold celfone number, signature and submit their entries to authorized TSI agents or SMART Customer Care Officers.

Interested promo participants may group SIM swap at all TSI branches, SMART Wireless Centers or any SMART school or mall event nationwide.

Four lucky groups will win a trip to Singapore to watch the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of Php 25,000.00 cash for each member.

Twenty different awards will be given out at the 2002 MTV Asia Awards, including 11 "Favorite Music Artist" awards from territories around the region, six "International Music" category awards, one "Fashion" category award, one "Film" category award and one "Inspiration" award. Nominees for each category have been compiled from votes of key figures from the Asian music.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PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Promo duration is from November 20, 2001- January 10, 2002. Pro
2. There are two ways of forming a barkada and joining the promo:
   a) Four or five non-SMART pre-paid subscribers can swap their SIM
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   *Watch out for the new SMART Gold Subscription Plans.
3. All barkada SIM swappers will be given a group raffle coupon.
4. All barkada/group SIM swappers should fill out a group raffle coupon
   Group SIM Swappers can submit their coupons at authorized TSI b
   school/mall events nationwide.
5. A total of four (4) barkadas will win a trip to Singapore for five to w
   member in the raffle draw on January 15, 2002.
6. SMART will only shoulder the expenses of the trip for a maximum
7. Winners will be notified through a voice call, text message, and reg
8. Prizes may be claimed at Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, 10th floor, Feliza
9. Winners must present the notification letter, valid ID, and their SMA
   and passports.
10. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone
    degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from the promo.

*SMART will only shoulder the cost for a maximum of five barkada members. Winning barkad
in the winning barkada, SMART will not shoulder the cost for the guardian. Winning group w
*Individual SIM swappers from November 20, 2001 - January 10, 2002 may also win P20,000.
*Customer Care Officers and TSI agents may also win P30,000.00 cash prize if they facilitated
*Customer Care Officers and TSI agents may also win P10,000.00 cash prize if they facilitated

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entertainment and fashion industries.

Winners will be revealed at a ceremony to be held before a live audience of more than 7,000 fans at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, which will include the four lucky barkadas who will win the Singapore trip from SMART's Barkada SIM Swap Promo. The ceremony will be taped and aired to over 150 million viewers across Asia, with highlights being seen on MTV's channels around the world.

Nominees for each category will be promoted on MTV's six channels and online sites across Asia from November 12, 2001. All award categories (except for the "Inspiration" award) will be selected by the viewers and fans in 10 markets through an open poll from November 12, 2001, to January 18, 2002. Viewers can vote online at www.mtvasiaawards.com, or at local voting partner outlets in each market. In the Philippines, they can also vote by texting MTV to 211 through SMART. The "Inspiration" award will be a special honor presented by MTV to either an inspiring individual whom young adults across Asia admire, or to an organization that has contributed to the betterment of Asian youth and the whole region.

According to Frank Brown, President of MTV Asia, "It's really exciting for us to be presenting the first-ever pan-regional awards show recognizing and paying tribute to the talented artists loved by viewers across Asia. The MTV Asia Awards will provide a platform to bring together international and Asian talent, and to showcase them globally via our network of channels."

SMART Communications is proud to be a part of this momentous celebration of youth culture through the universal language of music, and joins MTV Asia and its other partners in honoring the vast and diverse talents that the region has to offer.

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3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5	THE ONE
6	KING OF GLADIATORS
7	SERENDIPITY
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9	TRIP
10	JEEPERS CREEPERS

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1	BUBBLE BOY
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	TRIP
7	THE ONE
8	JOY RIDE
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	JEEPERS CREEPERS
11	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
12	DOS EKIS

SM CITY MANILA
5236240

1	SERENDIPITY
2	JOY RIDE
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	THE ONE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	DON'T SAY A WORD
7	KING OF GLADIATORS
8	BUBBLE BOY
9	TRIP
10	JEEPERS CREEPERS
11	WEYT A MINIT
12	ANO BANG MERON KA?

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1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	JOY RIDE
4	THE ONE
5	SERENDIPITY
6	BUBBLE BOY
7	KING OF GLADIATORS
8	JEEPERS CREEPERS
9	WEYT A MINIT
10	TRIP
11	ANO BANG MERON KA?
12	LEGALLY BLONDE

SM TUTUBAN
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1	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP
4	WEYT A MINIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	TRIP
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	JOY RIDE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	THE ONE
9	BUBBLE BOY
10	LEGALLY BLONDE
11	DOS EKIS
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2	TRIP
3	SERENDIPITY
4	WEYT A MINIT
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9	THE ONE
10	JOY RIDE

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1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP

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1	THE ONE
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3	THE BODY
4	ROSARIO 18
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	TRAINING DAY

SM ILOILO
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1	THE BODY
2	CLOSED
3	THE ONE
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	TRIP
6	TRAINING DAY
7	CLOSED
8	HIYAS

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1	THE ONE
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	DOS EKIS
4	TRIP
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	WEYT A MINIT

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1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?

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2	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WEYT A MINIT KAPENG MAINIT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRIP	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE ONE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	KING OF GLADIATOR (Art Film)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SERENDIPITY	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 18 - 3 PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SERENDIPITY THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JOY RIDE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE ONE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	KING OF GLADIATOR
2 (SDDS)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4 GOLD (DTS)	JOY RIDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	TRIP

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	JOY RIDE
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	JOY RIDE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	THE ONE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
5	KING OF GLADIATORS

METROPOLIS star
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	TRIP
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	JOY RIDE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	TRIP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
A	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	JOY RIDE
5	BUBBLE BOY
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8 (SDDS)	THE ONE
9 (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4 (SDDS)	WEYT A MINIT
5	TRIP
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	JOY RIDE
9	DOS EKIS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE
6	WEYT A MINIT
7 (DOLBY)	BUBBLE BOY
8	TRIP

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	TRIP
5 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ANO BANG MERON KA ?
Lords	MEDUSA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	TRIP

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	JOY RIDE
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TRIP
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	TRIP

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT
4 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	LAST ERUPTION
5	THE ONE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DOS EKIS
2	THE ONE
3	AMERICAN PIE 2

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	TRIP
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	TRAINING DAY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS ES)	ANO BANG MERON KA?

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL
PREMIERE CINEMA
THX
NOW SHOWING
STEVE ZAHN PAUL WALKER LEELEE SOBIESKI
JOY RIDE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail : hic@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA
632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

① THX	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	JOY RIDE
3	KING OF GLADIATORS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	THE ONE
7	BUBBLE BOY
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?
9	JEEPERS CREEPERS
10	TRIP

ERMITA
536-7909 TO 12

1	SERENDIPITY
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	BUBBLE BOY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	JOY RIDE
2	JOY RIDE
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	SERENDIPITY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	TRIP

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	TRIP
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	JOY RIDE

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	MR. NICE GUY
5	EXTREME FORCE
6	TRIP

METRO EAST
632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 279

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	BUBBLE BOY
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	JOY RIDE
5	JOY RIDE
6	SERENDIPITY
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY),	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG AAPOY NA LAMAN / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ODEON	JOY RIDE
ODEON-2	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
ROBEN	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WEYT A MINIT
REMAR	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
REMAR-2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	WEYT A MINIT
B	ANO BANG MERON KA?
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	BUBBLE BOY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
CINEMA-6	TRIP
CINEMA-7	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-12	THE ONE
CINEMA-14	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN
CINEMA-4	THE ONE
CINEMA-5	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-6	SERENDIPITY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

'Monster' hit

(From page A27)

edy. And parents love the movie, too, because it goes a long way in liberating their children from some of their insecurities and nightmares.

The movie sets its story in "Monstropolis," where all monsters reside. Monsters James and Mike work in a "scream-processing" factory (monsters use the screams of terrified kids to run the factory). One day, a little girl name Boo accidentally follows James to his world, and all hell breaks loose for the monsters.

Why? Because it turns out that monsters think that children are toxic, so direct contact with them is forbidden! Thus, it's Boo who scares the living daylights out of the monsters, instead of the other (more traditional) way around. Now, that's funny!

Aside from the bemusing twist in its story, "Monsters Inc." is highlighted by advances in animation, courtesy of the gremlin-geniuses at Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios.

These advances are in the areas of fur and hair, clothing, atmosphere effects, collisions, lighting effects, and better integration of all of the elements involved in a shot. These took as long as two years to research and execute, but the time and effort are worthwhile investments because Disney and Pixar can build on these achievements in their succeeding productions.

Nida Blanca starrers

ONGOING on IBC-13's "Viva Box Office" (6:30 p.m.) is a mini-retrospective of movies starring **Nida Blanca**. Next up is "Magdusa Ka," to be screened on Monday, Nov. 19.

Directed by **Eddie Garcia**, the melodrama has Nida playing an unforgiving mother. In the film, **Dina Bonnevie** is the daughter of **Dindo Fernando** and his former maid, Nida. Dina dreams of being accepted by her wealthy father and eventually moves into his mansion, despite her mother's objections.

However, she soon finds herself pregnant, by her impoverished boyfriend and is turned away by her wealthy family. After Nida refuses to take her back, Dina is forced to fend for herself.

Nida's performance in this movie made her win a grand slam of all of the Best Supporting Actress awards for Film Year 1986.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, the film is "Forgive and Forget," a heartwarming musical-comedy production. Again directed by Eddie Garcia, it stars **Sharon Cuneta** as a girl who has to cope with the squabbles of her movie-star parents, played by Nida and **Nestor de Villa**.

Finally, on Thursday, Nov. 22, Nida, Sharon and **Gabby Concepcion** star in **Leroy Salvador's** "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa."

'Monster' hit

THE FIELD of animated features used to be dominated by Walt Disney's studio, but after "The Lion King" and "Toy Story" hit it big at the box office,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

the company lost some ground to new animated productions initiated by other studios.

Indeed, when "Shrek" broke records for DreamWorks and PDI earlier this year, some industry observers felt that Disney had been roundly and permanently upstaged and dethroned by its most determined rival.

Whoa, not so fast! As the film year draws to a close, it looks like Disney is still having the last word, because its new animated feature, "Monsters Inc.," has just set a new record at the tills.

The film earned a whopping $63M-plus on its first weekend which was the best initial showing for any animated feature ever, and the sixth best first weekend gross for any kind of movie.

In addition, the film made an additional $40 M-plus on its second weekend and topped the $100-M mark in only 10 days, beating the previous record-holder, which took 11 days to make $100 M.

What is it about "Monsters Inc." that has movie fans of all ages going ga-ga over it, thus making it (literally) a "monster" hit? The film has a wonderfully fresh premise: it's about hideous monsters, but it turns out that these fearsome creatures are the ones who are afraid—of little children!

Thus, the movie effectively makes its monsters vulnerable and even lovable, while endowing kids with a mighty power (powerful enough to render huge monsters helpless and trembling).

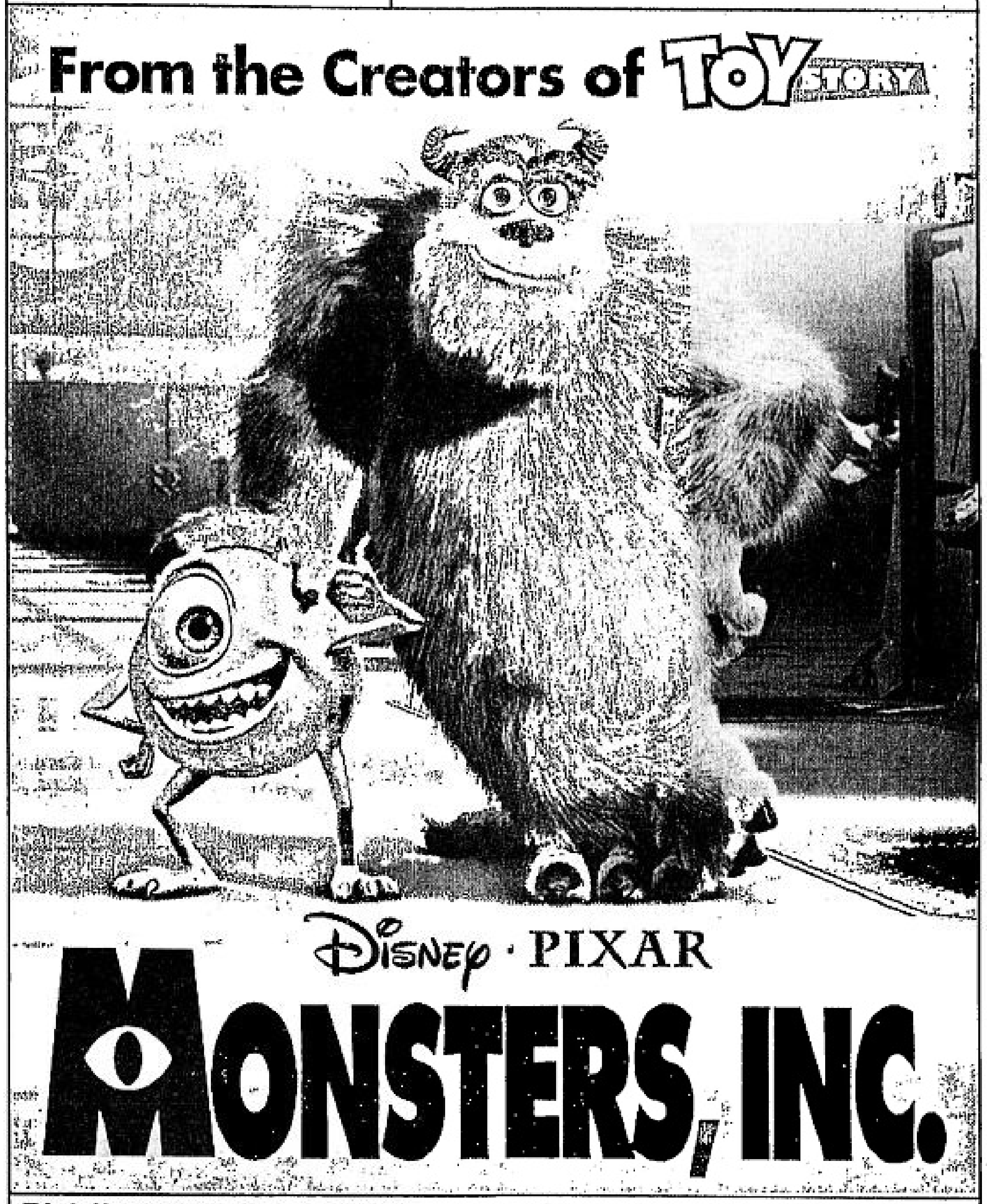
No wonder kids love this movie—it empowers them and dissipates their darkest fears with the rinsing light of cartoon com

MONSTER/ A26

MR. H. POTTER
In the Cupboard under the Stairs
Privet Drive
Little Whinging
Surrey
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
NOVEMBER

SCARING UP LAUGHS STARTING NOVEMBER 28!
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED


From the Creators of TOY STORY
DISNEY · PIXAR
MONSTERS, INC.

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

MARIAH CAREY
glitter
www.glittermovie.com

From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

OPENS NOV 21!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE ONE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SONY.COM/THEONE

All-new 'MATRIX'-style sci-fi actioner

Jet Li vs. Jet Li in 'THE ONE'

What if you discovered the most dangerous man in the universe was you?

Jet Li the hero and Jet Li the villain square off in Columbia Pictures' new stunt & special efx-packed sci-fi action thriller, "The One."

The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

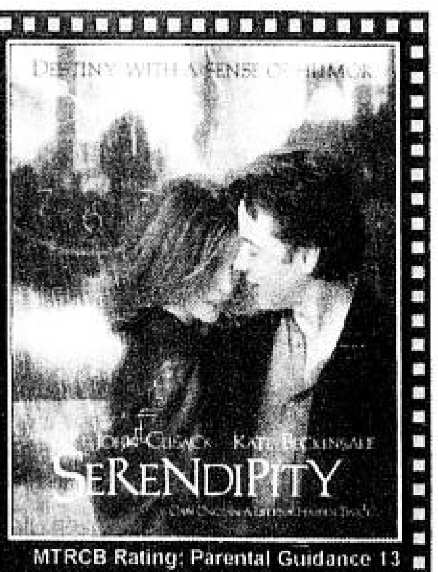
"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

NOW SHOWING

Do You Believe in Destiny?
Make it your destiny to watch
the perfect date movie
SERENDIPITY
starring John Cusack & Kate Beckinsale @
THE PERFECT DATE MOVIEHOUSE
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

& GET A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE YOUR DREAM DATE: Room Accommodation in Oakwood, Regine's Concert for 2 @ OnStage, Dinner for 2 in TGIFridays, Entrance for 2 in Enchanted Kingdom & Movie Tickets for 2 for every 2 SERENDIPITY tickets purchased.

FreshBurst LISTERINE Oakwood SKYFILMS


DESTINY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR
JOHN CUSACK KATE BECKINSALE
SERENDIPITY

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Opens Nov. 14 (Wed.) @ AYALA CINEMAS
Promo period: Nov. 14 to 27, 2001
See leaflets or call 752-7880 to 83 for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3770. Series of 2001.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Opens NOV. 21 (Wed.)
at the All Digital Sound
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Your 24-hour link to all Ayala Cinemas
729-7777
Reserve your seats through
www.sureseats.com
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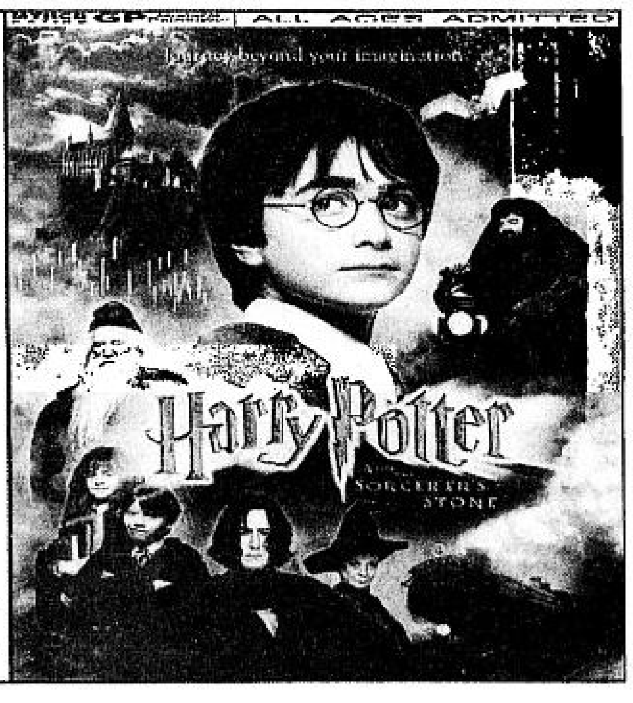
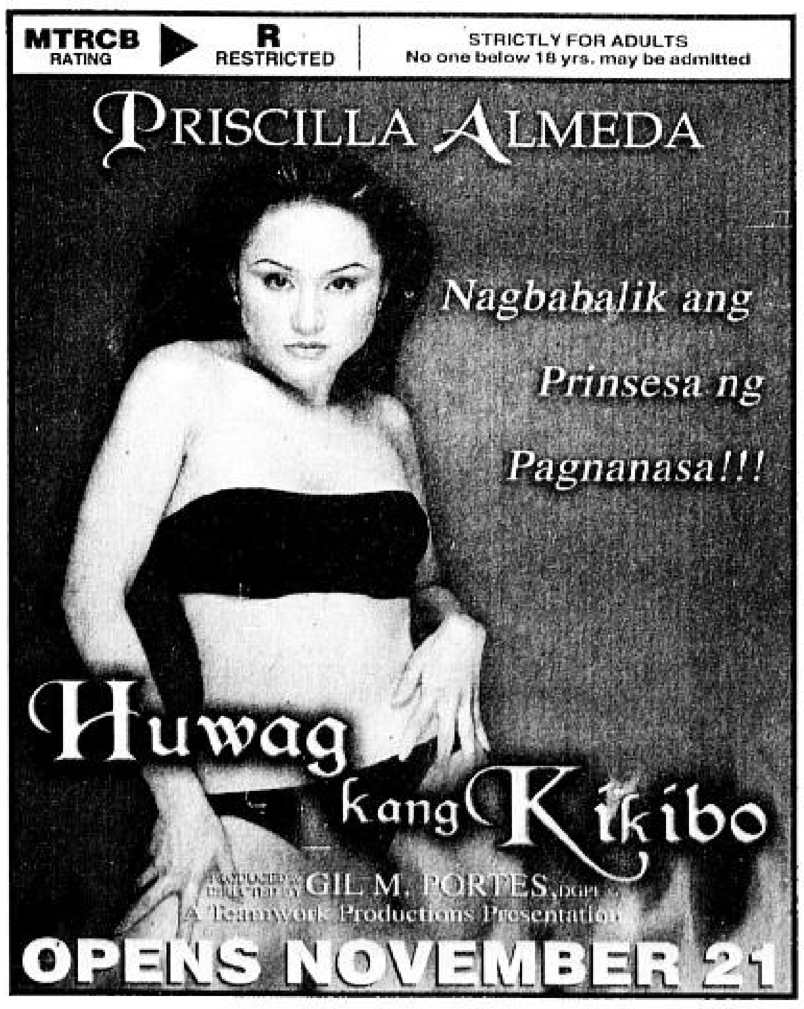
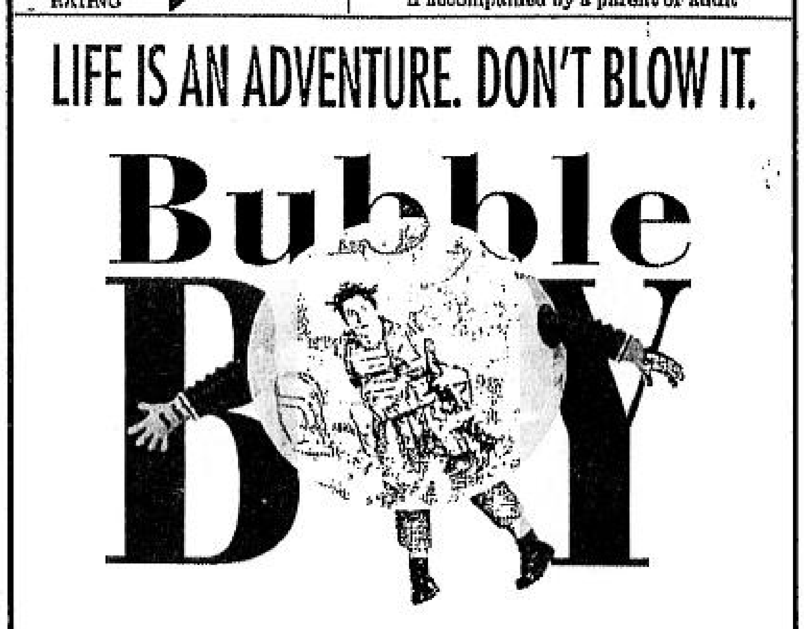

ALL AGES ADMITTED
Journey beyond your imagination
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted


PRISCILLA ALMEDA
Nagbabalik ang
Prinsesa ng
Pagnanasa!!!
Huwag kang Kikibo
GIL M. PORTES
A Teamwork Productions Presentation
OPENS NOVEMBER 21

"LAUGH OUT LOUD" COMEDY
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. DON'T BLOW IT.
Bubble BOY

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

OPENS NOVEMBER 21!

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

'pag si MANOY at LONG pinagsama, gugulong ka sa pagtawa!!!
isabel granada
klaudia koronel
eddie garcia
long mejia
KAPITAN AMBO
DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

A simply amazing Christmas treat from SMART

Trium
SMART
SMART zed
SMART Buddy Pre-paid
SMART Money
Load it up. Live it up.
Buddy

Color
Your
World
For only

₱2,990

The New Smart Buddy Mitsubishi Mars.

With Seven Colorful Looks In One,
It's Like Owning Seven Celfones!

SMART Money

SMART zed plus

Grab the new SMART Buddy Mitsubishi Trium Mars and get seven colorful panels FREE! Plus, you also get to choose between two of the most advanced SIMs today: SMART zed plus--the super SIM that allows you to personalize your celfone menu for click-and-browse access to the services you need; or SMART Money--for cashless shopping convenience!

Key Features of Mitsubishi Trium Mars:
- Interchangeable panels
- Speakerphone
- Menu graphics
- Vibra alert

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THE FORMER Ateneo professor turned board member circa 1993

Teaching his way to the top

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

JOHN Philip S. Orbeta graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University during interesting times. It was 1982 and there was growing political discontent against the Marcos regime. Being young and idealistic, he and his friends thought they should go out and do something to contribute to society.

FIRST JOB

So the 21-year-old went into teaching. He was a faculty member of the Mathematics department and director of Computer Education and Services at his alma mater, earning about P1,500 a month teaching first to fourth year high school students.

"I taught mathematics at the Ateneo for about four years. It was unusual because many of us from our batch went to the faculty and I would say we were able to make a difference in the faculty because we were a block. It was a lot of fun," Orbeta tells the INQUIRER.

Orbeta says their entry made waves at the Ateneo because they came in wearing jeans and rubber shoes as well as polo shirts. It was quite a culture shock for the old professors who came in wearing barong and formal pants.

The '80s

He recalls one time when he spent recess with his students. The students got so rowdy that one of the head teachers called the students' attention, only to find out that he was in the middle of the group.

The '80s was a happy time, he says. It was the age of the Bagets and new wave music. Orbeta was an inspiring teacher even at 21 but he also had his fair share of gimmicks.

He was not a singer, he says, but he knew how to dance so he made the rounds of the discos that used to dot the night landscape at that time.

All things, however, must come to end, as they say so he left the academe because he wanted to pursue a master's degree in business administration. Fate, however, decided to intervene by making him get a summer job at Watson Wyatt in 1986.

TEACHING/ B5

Businesses at the Park

BY JOVELYN REYES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Burnham Park, a favorite promenade area of tourists and residents alike, has withstood the test of time to emerge as one of the most famous spots in this mountain resort city.

Designed in the early 1900s by American architect Daniel Burnham, after whom the park was later named, Burnham Park has bred various tourist-related businesses that provided livelihood to enterprising residents.

Among these are the popular boat rides in the manmade Burnham Lake, the bikes-for-rent business and the photography services provided by roving park photographers for visitors who want to preserve their Baguio visit in photographs.

For years, colorful boats in various designs at the Burnham Lake never failed to attract park goers.

The boat rental business is Burnham Park's main tourist attraction. Boats are rented out to tourists for P60 for 30 minutes.

The business started in the 1950s, with only two outrigger sailboats rented out in the lake. Now, the lake is home to at least 60 boats for rent and managed by six concessionaires.

Onofre Ojena, a yearly winner of the Burnham boat race competition, recalled that he grew up at the lake with his father's boats.

Boating

"*Bata pa ako, may bangka na ako* (I had my first boat as a child)," says 42-year-old Ojena.

He said his father, Eduardo, had managed their boat rental business from 1951 up to his death in 1982.

"The business had been with the family since my father settled here in 1951," Ojena recalled.

His two siblings, Carlos and Marta, are also boat concessionaires.

Ojena and his wife Belen are renting out 16 boats. They earn more than P5,000 a day during summer when tourists flock to Baguio.

"Sometimes, we are wishing that summer would last a year because it is only during summer that we earn," he said in Filipino.

He said during off tourist season, they earn between P200 and P300 a day.

Ojena said they are hoping that the city government would allow them to increase their rental fees.

"The city government is regulating the rental fees. We lobbied for a fee increase by P15 and an additional P25 for the rower, but they would not allow it," he said in Filipino.

He said the drowning of a 15-year-old high school student in the lake last year had affected their business.

"It had affected us, people were scared to ride a boat after that. Until Christmas last year, we could hardly earn P200 a day considering that December is a peak season," he said.

"We are thankful that people seemed to have forgotten that incident. People started coming in again last summer."

Safety first

He said since that drowning incident, boat concessionaires in the park strictly enforced the use of life vests among boat riders.

"We need to assure people that boating is safe. But sometimes people don't want to wear life vests. The vest is uncomfortable," he said.

Ojena said business during the earlier years was much better.

"We are solely depending on tourism. When tourist

BUSINESS/ B2

EV ESPIRITU

ONE of Burnham Park's enterprising vendors

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GSi AT	P675,000	P155,000		P18,750	P15,250
Ghia MT	P730,000	P165,000		P19,500	P16,000
Ghia AT	P765,000	P175,000		P20,500	P16,750

RANGER

UNIT	SRP	LOW DOWNPAYMENT		INSTALLMENT 36 mos.	INSTALLMENT 48 mos.
XL 4x2	P644,000	P150,000	PAY 90 DAYS AFTER	P19,000	P15,250
2.9 XLT	P738,000	P170,000		P20,000	P16,250
Trekker	P805,000	P190,000		P23,250	P19,000
XLT 4x4	P980,000	P200,000		P27,250	P22,500

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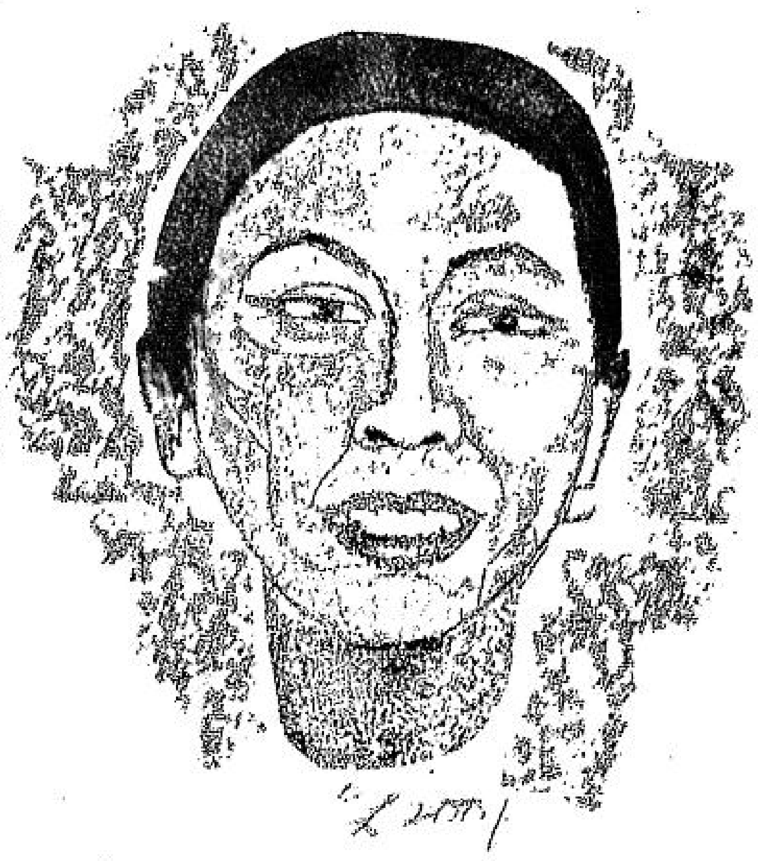


THE "RESIGNATION" of Alfonso "Tito" Yuchengco III from the family's Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. led to speculation that his sisters were the cause.

Eldest sister Helen Y. Dee was reportedly meddling with the bank's operations, which became too hot for Tito to handle. If true, then Helen defied Chinese family tradition that says the crown jewels should be handed over to the male member.

A second look at social research: Detachment or involvement?

"Socially Shared Inquiry"
By Herminia Corazon Alfonso
Great Books, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

IF THERE is any pronounced redeeming feature to capitalism, though driven by the engine of profit, it is this: It has industry players who believe in and are committed to be "responsible corporate citizens."

Close to two decades ago, the idea that business can be a positive social force caught up with the country's captains of industry. So, as a decisive step, these industrialists put up the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), an expression of their common desire to "return" to the community a portion of their earnings as their contribution to social development.

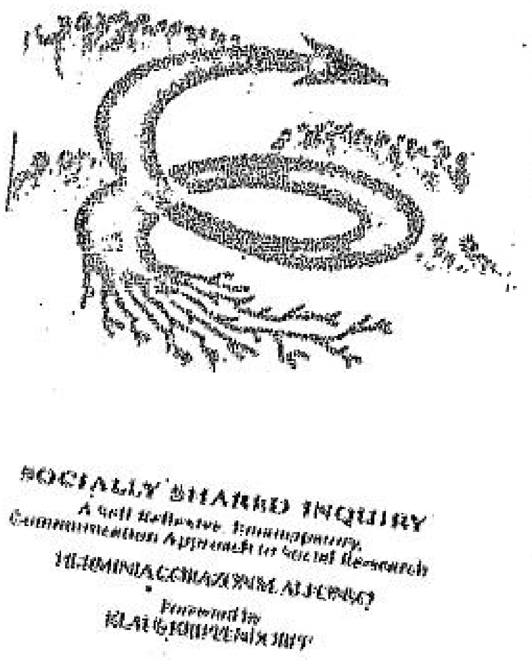
Corporations, big and small, also caught the vision of being "good neighbors" to the immediate communities where they operate. They have, in fact, gone even farther. They created the "community outreach department" or its equivalent to substantiate such "good-neighbor" policy.

An important part of this department's work is to continue feeling the pulse of its "host community"—a term that describes not only the obvious fact that the company is located in its midst.

It also underscores a not-so-obvious reality that such a firm is also genuinely interested in the life, culture and "soul" of such locale.

There is a book, "Socially Shared Inquiry," subtitled "A Self-Reflexive, Emancipatory, Communication Approach to Social Research," which should give the chief executive officer or the community relations official—not only a closer look at social research, but an insight into the current debate among social researchers.

EXECUTIVE READ


SOCIALLY SHARED INQUIRY
A Self-Reflexive, Emancipatory, Communication Approach to Social Research
HERMINIA CORAZON M. ALFONSO
Foreword by

Should the researcher be a detached agent extracting data from a community, or should he/she be one who is involved and who participates in the community's life as well?

This is actually no different from the debate among journalists. Should the newsman be a detached observer of society, or should he be involved as a crusading agent, take an advocacy position—and thus would truly contribute to a more honest, freer and saner society?

The foreword to the book underscores the author's stand.

"Fundamental to her (Alfonso's) work is the recognition that social research is not only inquiring into social phenomena; it is a social phenomenon in its own right, one where researchers enter the very social fabric they intend to study and partly cause what they observe."

This contrasts sharply with the studied detachment of researchers, described by the book as "disembodied researchers" involving everyone except the "object of research"—the communities being observed, clarifies the author.

Author Alfonso developed the book entirely on this concept: "Socially Shared Inquiry is designed to be a method of investigation enacted by the members of a community who engage themselves in the process as both doers and subjects of inquiry."

The community must be involved in the research process.

The book is a take off from the dissertation of the author, so it still uses the language of the academician.

Actually, you should look beyond the debate on whether the researcher is involved or detached. The value of the book to people disinterested in academic debates is that the book has a wealth of methodologies in getting the community to discuss their goals and to empower themselves.

If you continue on, the author pictures to you the transaction going on in towns and barrios where change is happening.

Read about the author's interesting account of Erin Brokovich (starring Julia Roberts), an involved researcher who changed the life of an entire community.

For corporate citizens, this book will make you better know the "soul" of the communities where you operate. For this alone, it is worth steering clear of the academician's lingo. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

Manufacturer helps Red Cross save lives

IN today's business environment, a company's sense of social responsibility becomes a distinct corporate advantage in the eyes of its various publics..

By helping address the needs of the community, a company endears itself to its consumers and earns their trust.

As a pioneering company, Green Cross Inc. strongly believes that where the heart is willing, it will find a thousand ways.

Recently, it renewed its commitment by joining hands with PNRC to launch a highly relevant project of advocating and rallying support for the Red Cross.

Through its lead product Green Cross Alcohol, the company assists the Red Cross in Mass Blood Donation activities at shopping malls on weekends.

Businesses at the Park

(From page B1)

arrivals drop, our income also drops," he said.

But he said he is optimistic that Burnham Park's rehabilitation would attract more tourists.

"The proposed fountain at the middle of the lake would be a sight people would surely love. I hope the beautification of Burnham Park will bring back its old glory," he said.

The bicycle rental business started in the park in the early 1930s, with only five operators and 20 bikes offered to visitors who wanted to explore the park.

The business has proven profitable, as there are now 39 operators and more than 650 bikes—from kiddie to mountain bikes—being offered to tourists for a fee.

Federico Navarro, 80, and one of the first bike rental businessmen in the park, said he gave up his job at the old Pines Theater to put up his own rent-a-bike business in the area where the Baguio Athletic Bowl is now located.

Ups and downs

With P300 as capital, Navarro said he bought five BMX-type model bicycles just after World War II in 1945.

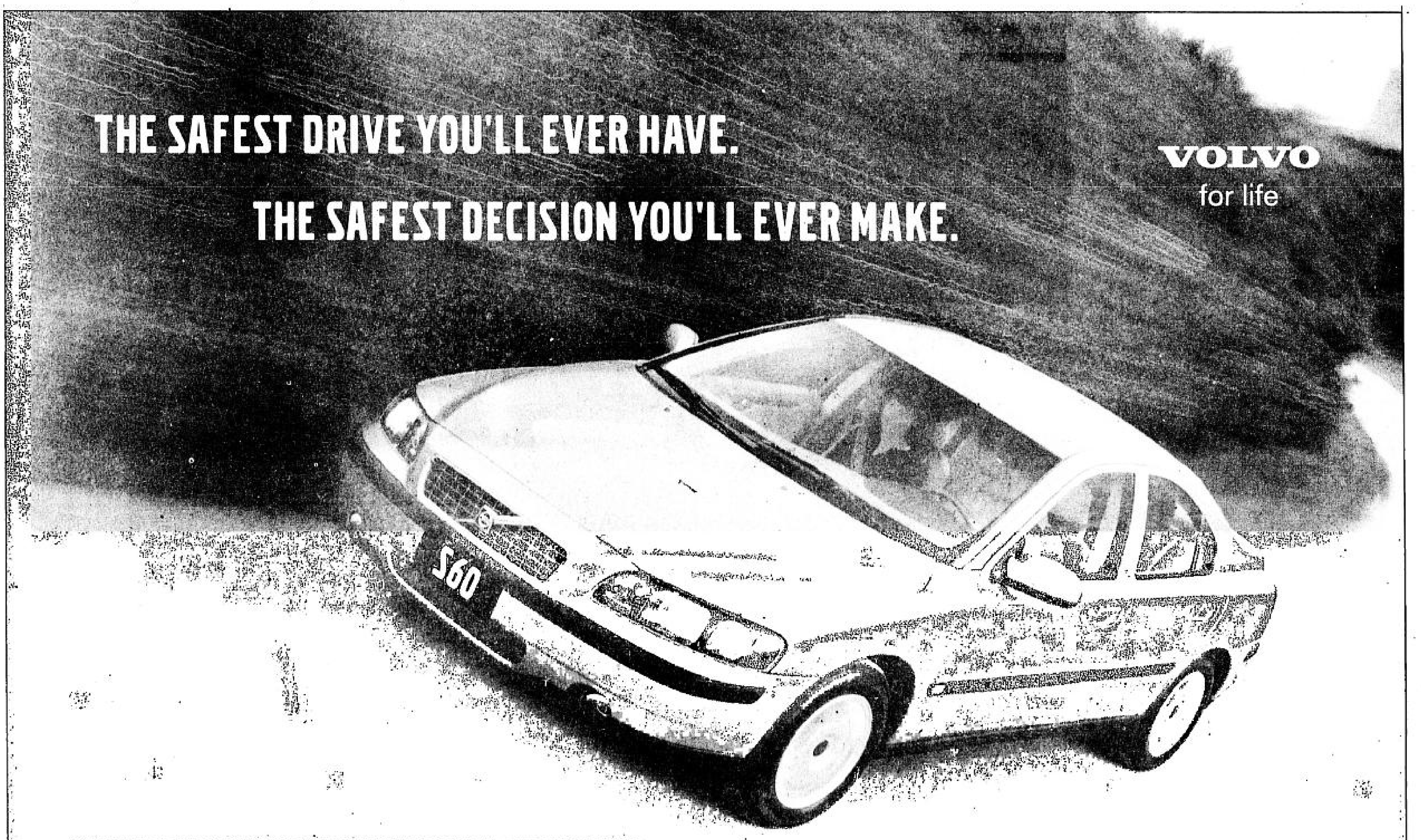
"Our customers then were mostly Americans. The business back then was profitable. Now, we barely break even," he said.

Despite his age and difficulty in hearing, Navarro said that he feels stronger whenever he is at Burnham Park.

"Seeing children enjoy their bike rides keeps me alive," he said.

Navarro now owns at least 40 bicycles and two bike rental stalls.

BUSINESSES/ B7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Holidays may not be blue for US retailers

WASHINGTON—Holiday spending will be hurt by the Sept. 11 attacks, but many analysts say retailing for the critical yearend period will not be as bad as initially feared.

Some analysts say consumers will be shifting some spending online because of safety concerns, and that may help the ailing Internet sector.

Overall, the National Retail Federation (NRF) predicts 2001 sales for November and December to increase 2.5 to 3 percent, which will be weak but better than anticipated a month ago.

The NRF outlook, based on Oct. 19-21 surveys, found US consumers plan to spend an average of $940 per household this holiday season on gifts and other holiday items.

"Given the many uncertainties facing the country as we head into the holidays this year, consumers appear to remain dedicated to celebrating the season as they've done before," said NRF president and chief executive Tracy Mullin.

Consumer spending represents about two-thirds of US gross domestic product, and holiday shopping represents a large chunk of profits for retailers. With layoffs rising and the US economy likely to go into recession, the behavior of consumers in the holiday season could determine how quickly the economy recovers.

A separate survey by the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the Credit Union National Association (Cuna) found 28 percent plan to spend less this holiday season than last year, but 57 percent plan to spend the same as last year. The findings were close to those of last year's holiday.

"Given significant declines in consumer confidence and the rise in unemployment, some reduction in holiday spending plans is not at all surprising. But these results suggest that the contraction in holiday spending may not be as pronounced as we might have expected," said Cuna chief economist Bill Hampel.

Online retailing, which has been hammered by the dotcom collapse, may find reason to smile this holiday season, say analysts.

GartnerG2, a research service of Gartner, sees a shifting of some spending to the Internet. It predicts a drop of in-store sales of up to 10 percent as worldwide online holiday shopping tops $25 billion this year, a 39-percent increase.

"Many people will shop online from home if they choose not to travel during the holiday season," said Geri Spieler, research director for GartnerG2.

Another research group, eMarketer, says that its evaluation of nine different surveys found US online consumer spending will hit $10.7 billion in the fourth quarter, up 20.2 percent.

But eMarketer says no one expects the red-hot growth in online sales of last year, when fourth-quarter spending was up 71 percent.

"The economic malaise will constrain online and overall retail spending this year," said eMarketer chief executive Geoff Ramsey. "Unlike previous years when online spending rode the roller coaster straight up, regardless of overall retail activity, this year, e-commerce will be more closely aligned with general patterns of consumer spending."

Some analysts have been guarded on their outlook for online sales because of cautious forecasts from giants such as Amazon.com.

But BizRate.com, a comparison shopping site, expects the season from Nov. 19 through Dec. 26 to generate $6.3 billion in online sales, a 31-percent increase over last year.

A BizRate survey found 74 percent of online shoppers said the Sept. 11 attacks would have no impact on their online holiday shopping.

Jupiter Media Metrix is forecasting 11-percent growth in US online holiday sales to $11.9 billion, with 10 million more consumers shopping online.

"As traditional retailers brace for a holiday shopping season fraught with uncertainty, online retailers are facing quite the opposite—the first fairly predictable holiday season," said Ken Cassar, Jupiter senior analyst.

"The attacks of Sept. 11 will in fact have a net zero impact on online retailers. Because fewer Americans will travel via air this year, and those that do will be less likely to carry armloads of packages through tight airport security, there's an increased likelihood that consumers will buy from online and catalog retailers." *AFP*

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Big boats, big bucks for top deluxe yacht firm

PARIS—France's Rodriguez Group, the world's top luxury yacht firm by sales, has found a way to beat war, a year-long market tailspin and a global economic downturn: sell to clients who are too rich to care.

The French Riviera-based company has doubled its order backlog in the last 12 months, strengthening its niche in the upper-echelon boating market that is the private reserve of those who need not work for a living.

"We want to sell almost only to billionaires, people who are so rich they don't need an income to buy or maintain a boat, who have a net worth of several hundreds of millions of dollars and don't care about the level of the economy or the Nasdaq," said the Cannes-based company's finance director, Steve Chokron.

Rodriguez said last week that its 2000/2001 sales shot up 45.4 percent to 168.4 million euros ($148.5 million), breaking the 1 billion franc barrier for the first time—two years ahead of plan.

Sales have tripled over the last three years, and even without acquisitions turnover climbed 37.5 percent in the year that ended on Sept. 30. The stock is seen riding the wave.

"They are the most luxurious of the luxurious, and the share has the potential to climb 40 percent in the next four to five months," said Francis Pretre, analyst at Credit Lyonnais Small Caps.

"Their clients' leisure is not terrestrial. They have their Cote d'Azur villas, but the sea is the last free space on earth, and they can go there on these boats."

Chokron estimated the stock will hit 100 euros ($88.03) within two years as the company sails into untapped markets in Asia, the west coast of the United States and South America.

Broker Oddo/Pinatton said the share was trading at a 30-percent discount to France's SBF 250 index in terms of price earnings growth, and would still be marked down 18 percent even if it were trading at the broker's 66-euro price target.

Rodriguez traded up 3.47 percent at 53.6 euros at midsession last Tuesday after the sales news, while the SBF 250 was up 0.34 percent. It was trading at over 55 euros on Nov. 14.

The share has risen from 6.73 euros in May 1999 and wiped out losses incurred since the market-shaking Sept. 11 air attacks on the United States that provoked war in Afghanistan.

Rodriguez shares have outperformed the SBF 250 market by 17 percent since Oct. 12, 2000.

Oddo/Pinatton put the stock's price/earnings ratio at 75.5 in 2000 and estimated it would sink to 51.7 in 2001, 35.9 in 2002 and 25.9 in 2003, based on "acyclical hypergrowth."

"Demand from customers is on the rise and is immune to fluctuations in the economy, the stock market, the dollar and oil prices," Oddo/Pinatton analysts Gilles Raffort and Edouard Valle[illegible] Viallard said in a research note.

[illegible] earnings per share growth of around [illegible] 2000-2003 period.

[illegible] boat, [illegible] catch

[illegible] smaller [illegible] doing so swimmin[illegible]

Brunswick Corp., the world's No. 1 pleasure boat maker, posted a 65-percent plunge in third-quarter profits. The US firm will idle plants, slow output and cut staff in the second half.

But in a telling move, Brunswick has agreed to buy Hatteras Yachts and its 16- to 31-meter (50-100 foot) sportfishing and motor yacht models. Brunswick chair George Buckley said the acquisition would allow his firm to meet the needs of customers "who desire to move up in size and luxury."

Rodriguez sells fast boats with open upper decks that range in length from 20-42 meters (66-138 feet) and cost between 2 and 15 million euros. During its 1999/2000 fiscal year, the firm sold 32 new boats and 40 second-hand boats for 759 million French francs ($101.8 million).

Thirty percent of the buyers—mostly entrepreneurs and chief executive officers—are French. A quarter are American, 17 percent are German and 16 percent are British. The others are Italians or from the Middle East.

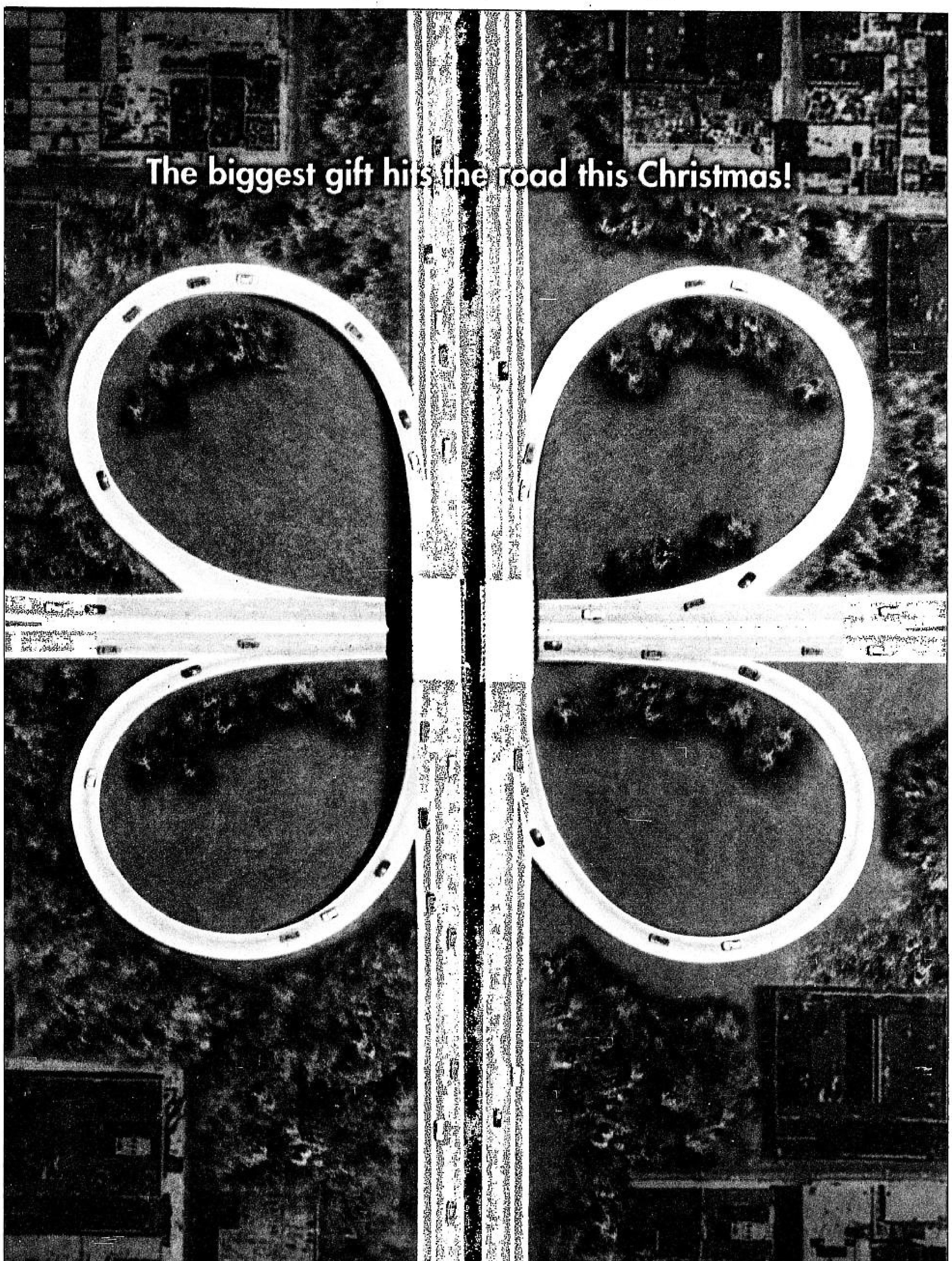
"There is a big shortage between demand and supply. There are many more clients asking for boats than there are boats," said Caroline Cohen, an analyst for Deutsche Bank.

Rodriguez controls 80 percent of its worldwide market segment. The slim competition includes French firm Guy Couach and Italy's Ferretti.

It made its first sizeable acquisition in April by purchasing US company Camper and Nicholsons, the world leader in chartering and brokerage of top-line pleasure boats. Analysts smiled on the expansion move, adding that other expected buys such as a European shipyard stake and a US marina will drive up future gross profit estimates.

The chief long-term risk for Rodriguez is a waning interest in luxury open yachts by high net worth customers, said a fund manager who preferred not to be named.

"At present, however, open yachts are more popular than ever," Oddo/Pinatton said. *Reuters*



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RISING ABOVE THE CLUTTER

Sifting through great Filipino ads

By Roger Pe

HOW do ads make the client's cash registers ring? Start with a good product. How do you make your ads bring in the gongs from awards shows? With difficulty.

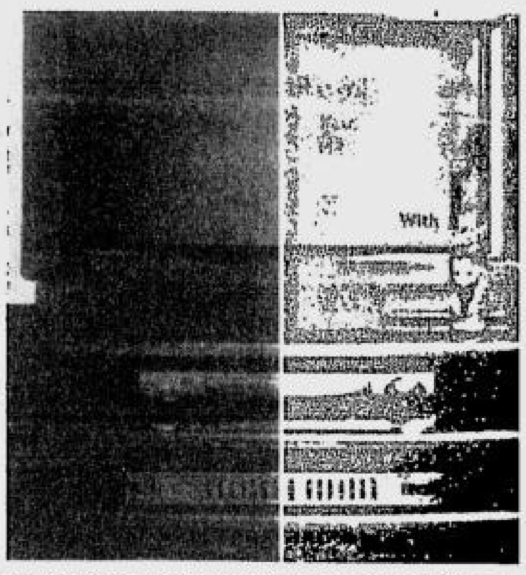
The 17th Philippine Advertising Congress creative competition is set on Nov. 24 as the finale of the Advertising Congress to be held in Cebu.

In that arena, creativity rules above all. They have assembled some of the country's best to be the jurors.

The judges are Emily Abrera, Joey Venezuela and Teeny Gozum of McCann Erickson; Robert Labayen and Ira Zabat of J. Walter Thompson; Cid Reyes, James Bernardo and Eugene Demata of Ace-Saatchi and Saatchi.

David Guerrero, David Ferrer and Dino Ocampo of BBDO; John Amon and Rocky Tirona of Campaigns and Grey; Roger Pe of DDB Philippines; Richard Irvine of Leo Burnett; Raul Castro and Nonon del Carmen of Lowe Lintas;

Sockie Pitargue and Raymund Villaruel of PCV; Tessa Artadi of Adformatix; Caloy Cunanan of J Romero; Jun Carangan of Ogilvy & Mather; and Mon Jimenez, Raul Castro and Don Sevilla of Jimenez D'Arcy.



TV Split by McCann Erickson for Mr. Sheen

As in any creative event, this one started with screaming *beso-besos*, chica-chicas and hearing the word 'fabulous' countless times. Divas, ice-queens, legends, gloria stuarts, the progressives, the next batch . . . brown bill bernbachs and john hegarties all. Some were grossly missed. If egos were to be measured on the weighing scale, chances are you can't. Thinking of bombing that portion of the hotel? The whole ad industry will die.

Jury members were assigned rooms. As soon as we stepped into Camelia, we were impressed. Imagine feeling like a member of a celebrity panel of judges, giving 9.85 points from a computer and your composite scores, tabulated by one of the country's top auditing firms. Hmmm, letdown. The computers were just props. Seemed ominous of the events about to unfold.

KAPAG
KA NAG
ELMET
ANG

"HELMET" for Summit by JWT

Secret's great cinemawork was exhilarating as was its art direction. No screaming font. No artsy-fartsy trying hard production design. It's got real class. The art director definitely knew his medium. The first time I saw it, I was mesmerized. I thought I was tuned in to a Thai channel. Indeed, it was a Thai commercial. But what was it doing in a Philippine awards competition?

Close-Up's Halloween poster was a winner. Hope it didn't get waylaid along metal street.

Dole Pineapple Juice's brutally simple television ad "color bar" was interesting. Safeguard's "Pear" deserved to be honored. Sharp's television ad "Flat," and those of Canesten, Nestlé Yogurt, ditto. Why weren't these in international award shows?

Nido's "Bench" and "Glow-In-The-Dark" television ads were breakthroughs from a used-to-be an unexciting brand. Mr. Sheen has already won citations from the Clio and New York Festivals. The judges have a lot of explanations to do if they fail.

Radio was the most pathetic. It has never made inroads.

Screaming, yelling, hard-sell stuff. And so many American-sounding wannabes. And this one for a motorcycle brand—will they stop copying the radio-style blazed by Petron some years back, please?

We plodded through thousands of print, radio, TV , collateral campaigns with only pee breaks in between. Our eyes squinted a hundred times. Our ears, blasted with one-minute ads and full songs in the best jingle category. Though some judges were crying over these bombardments as torture to their eardrums, courtesy demanded that they remain glued to every piece. Afterall, an entrant, no matter how bad it sounds or looks, deserves a jury's undivided attention. Pity the ad agencies which coughed up thousands of pesos for their entry fees only to face judges who skipped their entries. These kinds of judges should never be invited again.

Yasmin Ahmad, Kuala Lumpur Leo Burnett creative director said when she sat in the 2000 Clio Awards jury: "What particularly impressed me was that every explanation I had to give for the Asian work was given a fair hearing."

Day two

Jimmy Santiago of TBWA-SMP (Santiago, Mangada and Puno) opened the second day session with this heart-rending greeting: Only 10 percent out of almost 3,000 entries moved to the final round. The mortality rate went higher and higher as the day wore out. The biggest axe fell on public service—the category with one of the most, if not the highest number of entries. Only five survived. Even well-meaning ones were mercilessly annihilated.

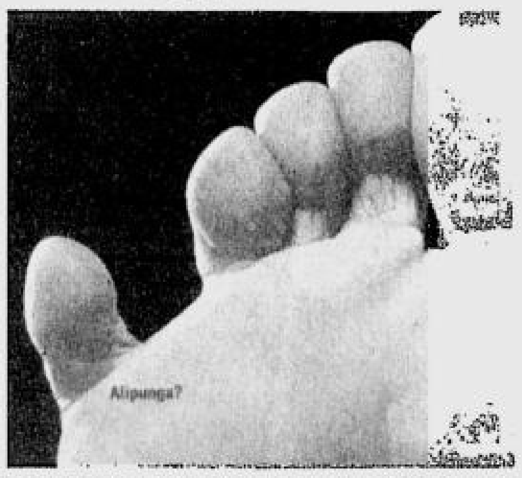
Was it because the judges were too tired or wanted to shop and go home early? Was it the 'in'-'out' syndrome (this rule automatically eliminates a potential winner)? Was it because the judges from each agency were disproportionately selected?

Whatever it was, we heard these words being whispered along the corridors and between coffee breaks: "ruthless, ruthless" and "scams, scams."

In an Australian national creative awards

SIFTING/ B5

"FRUIT" for Safeguard by Ace-Saatchi



"ALIPUNGA" for Canesten by BBDO

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Equitable PCI BANK

Teaching his way to the top

(From page B1)

"It was supposed to be just a summer job. I worked at the library, I filed reports, cataloged some of the papers. It was supposed to be a two-month job and I would move on to study," he says.

But just before he was to leave, the chief executive of Watson Wyatt came to the Philippines and met with its less than 10 employees, including Orbeta.

"It was the first time that we met and I guess I was the only one who got the nerve to talk to him. I was just 25 at that time and I guess I made a good enough impression on him that he talked to me and said I had a future with the company," he says.

Orbeta was not convinced at the outset because he was dead set on pursuing an MBA, but the retiring Watson Wyatt CEO convinced him to do the opposite.

"He told me that most people get an MBA to get a good job, but what if the good job came before the MBA?" he says.

CEO's advice

He heeded the CEO's advice and stayed on at Wyatt. He started off as a business development consultant, which essentially meant writing proposals to potential clients to grow the business. He later on expanded his responsibilities by being involved in the application of Watson Wyatt's advice.

The CEO's advice paid well for Orbeta. From just a summer trainee filing reports, he moved up in just five years to become managing director of the company at just 29 years old, one of the youngest ever in the Watson Wyatt global network.

He was managing director from 1991 to 2000 and during his tenure, he built one of the most successful consulting offices throughout the Watson Wyatt organization. He attributes this landmark feat to his teaching background.

"Teaching is not as easy as people think. Remember that I taught first year students with short attention spans and up to the fourth year students who were distracted by their impending graduation. I had to come up with ways to make the subject interesting to them," Orbeta says.

He adds that teaching also taught him to be prepared before class and to take care of all the details needed to make a good lecture.

"Teaching taught me the importance of preparation because you just can't teach. I have to make sure that I can connect to my students," he says.

Nearly 20 years after he first went into teaching, he still applies the same principles, albeit with a different audience.

Teaching background

Instead of students, he now has to face clients as well as colleagues here and abroad. Just as he prepared for a class, he has to prepare his presentations to be presented to his clients. He also has to get and then hold their attention in the same way that he did with students. Just like first year high school students, executives and clients have a short attention span because their time is precious.

"My experience facing hundreds of students gave the confidence I think to talk to people and being a teacher taught me to pay attention to the smallest details. It also taught me to plan ahead and see the big picture. I start with the end in mind," Orbeta says.

Watson Wyatt saw these qualities in Orbeta and it helped the management committee in their decision to name him as head of the Philippine operations. But he did not stop there. He went on to become a member of the 15-man board of Watson Wyatt in the US and a member of the powerful management committee, all before he reached 40.

He was the first Filipino and so far the only Asian on the board of the consulting firm, an achievement that he is very proud of.

Orbeta is also proud that in the nine years he headed the Philippine operations, Manila was seen as a center of excellence for Asia. When the other offices needed consultants, they got from Manila. It was seen as a source for talent and quality performance.

"In a span of five years, we were the No. 1 office of Watson Wyatt in terms of performance," he says.

First Filipino

Orbeta now works as the global practice director for the human capital consulting group for Watson Wyatt Worldwide. In this role, Orbeta oversees the firm's consulting practices in human capital strategy and organization performance, organization effectiveness and change management.

Orbeta consults on compensation issues to assist organizations implement their business strategies through their people management programs. He has also assisted top management and boards with executive compensation issues.

With his responsibilities, he spends over two weeks at a time traveling from Asia to America to Europe. He schedules his trips for two weeks straight so that he could spend at least two weeks here with his family—his wife Yvette and two daughters, 6-year-old Andrea and 3-year-old Michelle.

"It was a choice for me to stay here and be with my family that is why I schedule my trips this way. The only disadvantage is that I am not there physically in Washington to participate in making quick decisions but I am happy. At least I am able to carry the Asian and Filipino voice to the board of Watson Wyatt," he says.

JP Orbeta in 1990, nearly two years before he became managing director of Watson Wyatt at 29.

Sifting . . .

(From page B4)

show competition, a lot of creative directors complained that "judges were being selfish to reward their own peers, and that local ads which won in international competitions are being ignored." The Malaysian Kancil Awards held just a couple of weeks back had the same experience.

Oh, well, the muckier the mud, the more beautiful the lotus as they say. By the time we had sieved through the piles, we saw some stuff that we would have all been proud to put our names into.

Finalists automatically gained bronzes. A score of eight would give one a gold; 10, the platinum.

Scam ads

Remember the female Russian runner who won the 3,000-meter run in the world athletics championships? Her urine tests proved massive traces of drugs. When she ran her victory lap she was booed by the stadium and went straight to the dugout crying.. We don't want to rain on your parade but, Philippine ad scammers, be very, very careful. To quote Kim Shaw, editor of Campaign Brief Asia on the widening Asian scam menace, "humiliation may await you now."

This year's Philippine Advertising Congress ad competition judging was also the best argument to hold a separate category for art-for-art's-sake or showcase/initiative ads (the politically correct way to describe the much-abused words 'scam ads'). The competition committee and we presume, all the judges, were shocked by the brazenness of one agency for coming up with entries intended for branded categories/mainstream competition and passing them off as legitimate.

Some were even done in the most abhorring manner—reeking with toilet humor and heavy sexual innuendoes.

It's not only demoralizing but it also insults other agencies which toil hard turning nights into days just to come up with honest, competition-worthy entries.

Scammers will continue to comeback. The more you prohibit them, the more you'll find cheaters breaking the rules. They came back bolder this time. They will have an even more creative way of turning the rules around next competition. There's no assurance they won't resurface.

(The author is creative director at DDB Philippines. For comments, please e-mail the author at pe_roger@hotmail.com.)

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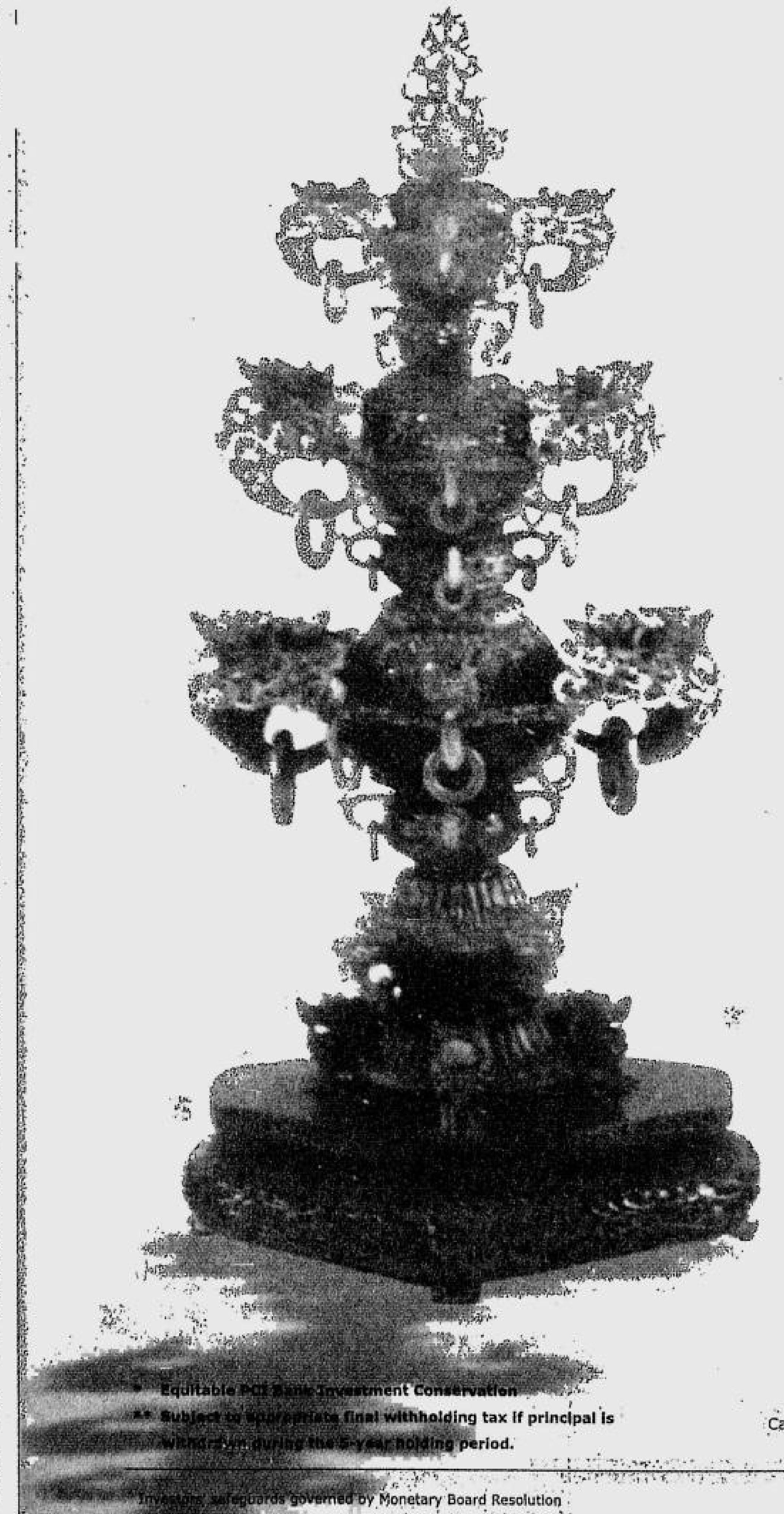

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Equitable PCI BANK

People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Harry Potter weekend at Enchanted Kingdom

A BEWITCHING, fun-filled Harry Potter weekend is in store for kids of all ages who will join the next leg of the demo tour series of the all-new Harry Potter Trading Card Game (TCG to be held today, Nov. 18, at the bandstand of Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The demo game inspired by the characters in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the first book in the best-selling Harry Potter series authored by J.K. Rowling, will be this weekend's main attraction at the country's premier theme park. This will be on top its regular family entertainment features, such as thrilling kiddie rides and games which continue to draw thousands of park-goers and visitors every weekend.

The Philippine release of the Warner Bros. movie is on Nov. 21.

In the trading card game, kids will challenge each others' skills and wizardry their knowledge of characters and situations in the books. To win the game, a player who acts as a wizard student from the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry must cast spells and use magical creatures to make his or her opponent's card disappear.

The game uses 166 fully illustrated cards with an all-new artwork that features favorite characters, potions, creatures and situations from the novel.

To join a demo game, participants must be at least 9 years old.

As a special treat, a Harry Potter fashion show featuring creations from Alexander Wear has been added, together with numerous prizes and surprises that include trivia games and a preview of the movie.

The Harry Potter Trading Card Game is exclusively distributed by Ban Kee Trading Inc.

EPITOME OF FRANCHISE EXCELLENCE

Over the years, Jollibee has consistently been cited by Franchise Asia as an outstanding Filipino franchise, finally earning a position in its Hall of Fame last year. This year, Jollibee once again maintains its dominance in the fastfood industry when it was given the Distinction for a World-Class Filipino Franchise at the Franchise Asia Excellence Awards Night at the World Trade Center in Manila. On hand to receive the citation were (from left) Rocky G. Dimaculangan, corporate affairs manager; Ma. Lourdes S. Villamayor, VP and regional business unit head for Mega Manila; Lilian S. Reventar, VP for South Luzon regional business unit; Claro F. Certeza, VP for legal and corporate affairs; Ernesto Tan Mantiong, EVP and chief operating officer; franchisees Bobby Sumulong and Columbus Co.

BOMBO RADYO
PESOS ONLY

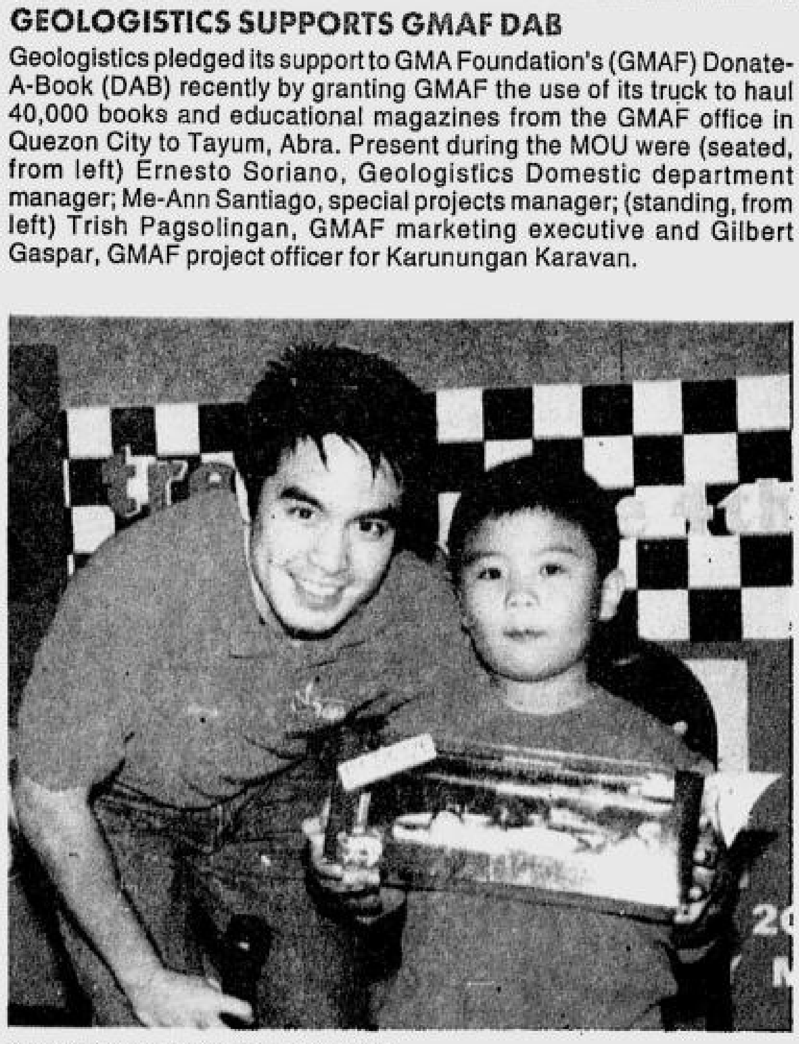
CHEERS TO THE NEW MILLIONAIRES

Bombo Radyo Philippines completed the awarding of P25 million in cash and prizes to lucky winners in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and NCR in the recently concluded Starvaganza Na, Bombonanza Pa Year VII promo. The awarding included four P1 million to four first prize winners, 20 P100,000 as bonus prizes, four Honda City Type R, four Hilton Mighty Cabs and four Kawasaki motorcyles. Shown above are the P1-M winners from Luzon (clockwise, from upper left picture) Gilnora D. Marquez of Lanting, Roxas, Isabela; from Visayas Florabell Subaldo of Barangay Pungsod, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo City; from NCR Felicitas Saddul of Gaya-gaya Delmonte, Bulacan; and from Mindanao Medana Sarabia of 218 3rd Street, Pareja Subdivision, Butuan City.

A-Book
Donate A-Book

GEOLOGISTICS SUPPORTS GMAF DAB

Geologistics pledged its support to GMA Foundation's (GMAF) Donate-A-Book (DAB) recently by granting GMAF the use of its truck to haul 40,000 books and educational magazines from the GMAF office in Quezon City to Tayum, Abra. Present during the MOU were (seated, from left) Ernesto Soriano, Geologistics Domestic department manager; Me-Ann Santiago, special projects manager; (standing, from left) Trish Pagsolingan, GMAF marketing executive and Gilbert Gaspar, GMAF project officer for Karunungan Karavan.



MHPCS ROCKS THE HYATT

The official organization of Matchbox and Hot Wheels in the Philippines, Matchbox and Hot Wheels Philippine Collectors Society (MHPCS), recently held an event at the Jasmine Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel along Roxas Boulevard, titled 'X-Treme, X-Change the 4th MHPCS Grand Swap Meet'. Graced by no less than Hot Wheels man Onemig Bondoc, the event was an instant success, showcasing the latest items from Hot Wheels and Matchbox. Included in the program was the awarding of the Swap King, Who Wants to be a Hot Wheels Premyonaire, and the awarding of the commemorative to certified collectors of Hot Wheels and Matchbox. The event is presented by Richwell Trading Corp., exclusive distributors of Hot Wheels and Matchbox in the Philippines. Richwell is located at 25 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City with telephone nos. 732-5141 to 47, and fax nos. 740-4676.

Persil has biodegradable formula

FINALLY, an earth-friendly detergent that is effective for heavily stained white fabrics like towels and uniforms is now available in the market.

Persil has a biodegradable formula that removes dirt on white fabric. Unlike other laundry detergents and bleaching products, Persil protects both your washings and the waterways where our run-off water goes. The use of earth-friendly Persil will help prevent the destruction of the environment.

Persil is especially formulated for white and heavily soiled fabrics. It contains ingredients that completely and effectively eliminate hard-to-remove stains and "optical brighteners" that enhance the whiteness of the fabric.

In contrast to the powdered or bar laundry detergents in the market, Persil can be used both in washing machines and hand wash. Because it comes in liquid form, it dissolves easily, can be applied directly on clothes, and does not leave any residue.

Icom adds agency members in 3 countries

International Communications Agency Network Inc.(Icom), a global network of independent advertising and marketing communications agencies, has added members in Puerto Rico, Panama and Russia, in an announcement made by its executive director, Gary Burandt.

New members are Arteaga & Arteaga, San Juan; Rila Publicidad, Bella Vista, Panama, and Magic Box, Moscow. The agencies were added as part of Icom's ongoing effort to maintain, strengthen and expand its capabilities.

Arteaga & Arteaga, a 17-year-old shop with a staff of 55, offers public relations and interactive services as well as advertising. The agency serves local and international brands, including Kia Motors, Panasonic, ICI Paints, RG Financials and Selecto Supermarkets.

Rila Publicidad has grown to nearly 30 employees since its founding almost 20 years ago and serves clients in a variety of categories: retail clothing, financial services, newspaper, footwear, real estate and government services.

Magic Box, started in 1994 as a design boutique and TV production shop, is now a totally integrated agency offering marketing research, advertising, public relations, package design, events, production and media services. The 30 professionals work on such international clients as Compaq, Stolichnaya, Diners Club, Samsung, ABN Amro Bank, Veka Club (a group of German window manufacturers), Motor (Turkish jeans and sportswear manufacturer) and Aventis and a variety of national accounts in financial services, beer, telecommunications, retail, clothing/shoes and electronics.

In the Philippines, Icom is represented by Adformatix, an independent agency, now on its 32nd year. Its chair Willie Garcia is currently serving as president of Icom.

Presents
SMAI CHILLERS
To Launch

TRANE'S NEW LINE OF SMALL CHILLERS

Trane Philippines, the local marketing and service company of one of the largest manufacturers of heating, ventilating, air conditioning and building systems and management based in the United States, recently launched its Small Chillers line of products at the New World Hotel, Makati City. These Trane Small Chillers are specially designed for easy installation in confined spaces and provide maximum cooling comfort for homes, luxury housings, restaurants, retail stores, office buildings and other small/medium-sized venues. Shown are (from left) Chino Magno, raffle draw winner; Mar Malveda, dealer sales manager; K.W. Ho, business manager; Maureen Baes and Jelly Marcelino, hosts.

UP THAT WALL

Getting a boost from Hi-Nutrition Tang Orange now charged with calcium, two girls scramble over the PowerClimb at the Tang Orange Playworld. The PowerClimb is only one of the many treats, which kids can enjoy at the Tang Orange Playworld. Catch it at Glorietta 2 from Nov. 15 to 21 and SM Megamall from Nov. 23 to 29.

CCP donates medicines to barangay

In line with its ongoing community outreach program, the Central Colleges of the Philippines recently donated several boxes of medicines to the constituents of Barangay Poblacion in Mandaluyong City. The project is part of CCP's mission in improving health and community awareness across the metropolis.

CCP president lawyer Crispino P. Reyes was on hand to personally turn over the medicines to barangay captain Jun Resngit.

CCP also steps up its ongoing plans of expanding and improving its facilities for its numerous students. The new structure, which stands in front of the main complex along Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City, will house the high school department, gymnasium and state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate the fast pace of today's technological developments.

Newest Bocaditos flavor: pizza

Nugget Food Corp. recently introduced the new pizza-flavored Bocaditos Tortilla Chips, the newest addition to its unique line of Bocaditos flavors.

Along with Nacho Cheese, Shashlik and Paprika flavors, Bocaditos Pizza is now available in leading supermarkets nationwide

Together we can...

FIRST E-BANK DESIGNATES H.O.P.E. BENEFICIARY

First e-Bank recently designated 'Ahon Bata sa Lansangan,' an integrated social welfare services to street children rescued from the streets by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as a beneficiary of its 'Help Our Poor and the Environment' (H.O.P.E.) raffle promo. The nationwide campaign supports national poverty-alleviation and environmental conservation. Shown is Carlos A. Pedrosa, First e-Bank president and chief executive officer handing a check to Alicia R. Bala, Dierctor IV, DSWD-NCR. Others shown are (from left) Asuncion Flores, OIC; Cora R. Estrella, First e-Bank executive vice president and chief financial officer; and Jose Alfredo L. Villanueva, First e-Bank executive vice president.

Digitally yours
LG

PHILTRANCO-LG COLLINS AD TIE-UP

Philtranco, the pioneering bus company in the country, recently signed an agreement with LG Collins Electronics for the use of LG-quality TV and VHS units in all of Philtranco terminals and its bus fleet. Shown signing the agreement at LG Collins' headquarters are (from left) Lirio J. Bantayan, LG Collins VP-marketing; Jocip G. Sarmiento, Philtranco consultant; Henry C. Jang, LG Collins president and GM; Alejandro R. Yague, Jr., Philtranco president; Ces T. Cuerpo, Philtranco marketing manager and Aileen G. Villareal, marketing consultant.

Businesses at the Park

(From page B2)

"*Dito kami nabuhay* (This has become my family's source of livelihood)," he said. He said he was able to send his children to the best schools through his business.

His wife Leonora, 78, accompanies Navarro everyday in tending their stalls.

Leonora recalled that she was initially against her husband's plan to give up his regular job for the bike business.

"He was lured into this business that he also gave up our jeepney. But I later relented because the business was really booming," she said in Filipino.

She said they were earning P200 in the 1940s and 1950s with rental fees as low as P1.25 an hour.

'That's a big amount during those times," she recalled.

At present, each bicycle is being rented out between P30 and P40 an hour.

Bike operators in the park said business was much better during the time of former President Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s and 1980s.

Rainy season blues

Larry Lingbanan, 34, spokesperson of the Baguio-Burnham Bicycle Association (BBBA), said computer arcades and shopping malls have eaten into their market, composed mostly of children and teenagers.

"Most children now play computer games than (ride on) bikes," Lingbanan, who started in the business in 1985, said.

He said during off tourist seasons, they had to drop the rental fee to P10 an hour.

"It's better than earning nothing at all. During the rainy season, we earn nothing," he said.

During summer, he said they could earn as much as P1,000 daily, "but after that, we have to be satisfied with P100 in daily earnings."

He also blamed the security problem in the country as it affected the influx of potential customers.

"Back in 1985, Chinese and Japanese tourists came by the busloads; the business was really at its peak. Now, foreign park goers are scarce because of (fear of) kidnapping," he said.

Navarro and Lingbanan said stall rental and the taxes they are paying the city government each month have affected their income.

Gov't help needed

"We are paying P1,000 as rental fee per month, if you fail to pay on time there is a surcharge of 24 percent, that is too burdensome for us," Lingbanan said.

He said they had been requesting the city government to exempt them from paying rental fee during the rainy season, "but they (government) did not agree," he said.

"No one comes to Burnham when it is raining. Where are we going to get the money (for rent)?" he said.

He said even the installation of streetlights around the biking area came from their pockets. "We are paying regularly but the city remains silent on our request to beautify the park by installing lights, so we did it ourselves," he said.

"We installed lights because some park goers want to bike at night. We also did it for the bikers' and our bikes' safety, (because) sometimes, some bikers steal our bikes," he said.

Lingbanan said he has lost at least 15 bikes since he started in 1985. He said a new bike costs at least P3,500.

Trying to help people preserve mementos of their visit to the historic Burnham Park are some 120 photographers who have became familiar sights at the park.

Carlos Cabillan, 64, said he had been working in Burnham since 1962.

"I've been here since I was 25. My life has revolved around taking pictures of happy people at the park," he said.

He said he had kept photos of famous people who had visited the park during his career as a photographer.

Brothers' act

"Sometime in the 1970s, movie star Fernando Poe Jr. was jogging at the park one morning and I took a photo of him, the black and white photo is still hanging at our living room," he recalled.

He said his two brothers also became park photographers.

"I bought two single lens reflex (SLR) cameras worth P700 for my brothers Ismael and Eddie when they were teenagers. I didn't know then that they would become photographers too. They did and I was glad," he said.

Cabillan said many of his colleagues had retired.

"I think we were eight who practically grew up in Burnham. Others have retired because they could not walk anymore," he said.

His younger brother Eddie, 45, however, lamented that business 16 years ago was a lot better than today.

"Before, you don't need to convince people to have their photographs taken. They will be the ones to look for you. Now, you almost need to beg just to have their pictures taken," he said.

"People bring with them their own cameras now, so there is no way we could earn much."

Cabillan said they are charging P40 for two copies of a 3R-size single shot.

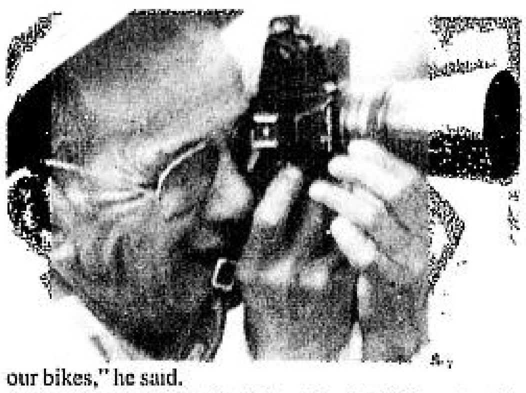
"Half of it goes to film and developing. We are only earning P20 per photo," he said.

He said park photographers survive by saving something for the rainy days.

"We earn nothing during rainy season because no one comes here, so we really have to keep money ahead of the rainy days," he said.

In the mid-1980s, Cabillan recalled that a daily earning of P1,000 was considered low among his peers.

"Maybe, you wouldn't believe it but I was earning as much as P2,500 a day in 1985, that was already something during those times. Now I could hardly earn a quarter of that," he said.



EDUARDO Gorospe, 63, is among Burnham Park's photographers who, after 48 years, still captures tourists in their best poses in Baguio's most famous park.

EV ESPIRITU

THE BOAT rental business attracts tourists to the summer capital.

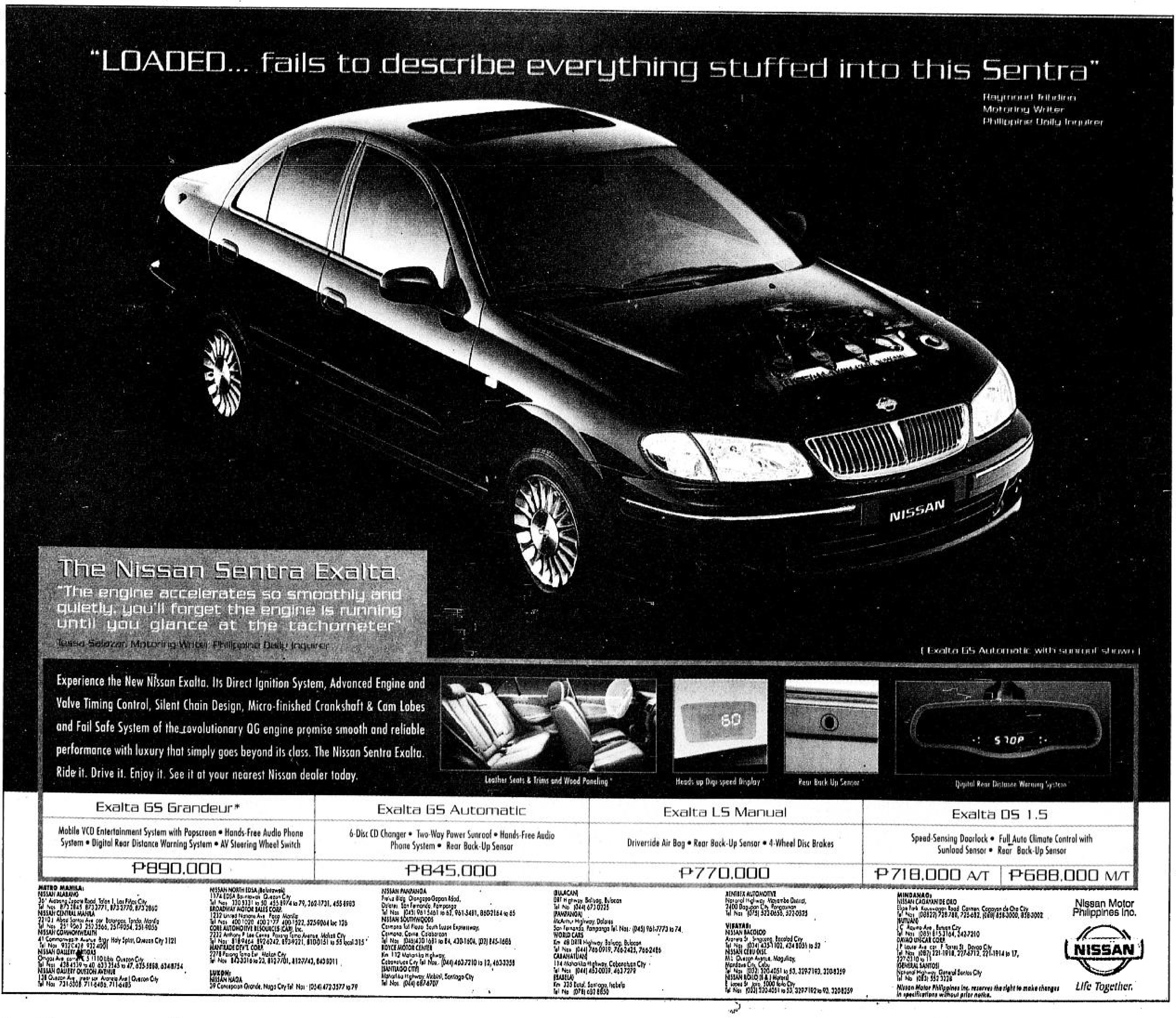
Vineland Laboratories, USA appoints GROMAX Inc. as exclusive distributor of Poultry Vaccines

VINELAND LABORATORIES, USA proudly announces its appointment of GROMAX, INC. one of the leading manufacturers of animal health and nutritional products in the Philippines - with the full exclusive distributorship rights of their poultry vaccine. With a strong conviction, they admit that with this unprecedented appointment, they have found another way to boost poultry health protection.

VINELAND LABORATORIES, now under Lohmann Animal Health International, is a recognized market-leader in developing inactivated vacccines. It holds more USDA licenses for the production of poultry biologics than any other American manufacturer, produces the broadest line of vaccines, sanitizers, anti-infectives and pharmaceuticals for the poultry industry.

Vineland Laboratories, like Gromax, Inc. is responsive to the growing needs of poultry health care. To them, poultry health protection is really the highest priority that will give their market a boost. And with this appointment and the inclusion of the celebrated products in their product spread, they aim to be recognized as the most innovative and the most reliable poultry health supplier through the years ahead.

Seated from left to right during the signing of contract last October 18, 2001 at London, England: Mr. James Bigmore, Business Manager, Lohmann Animal Health International, Mr. Wilfredo M. Angeles, General Manager, Gromax, Inc. and Mr. Armando B. Escobar, President, Vitarich Corporation



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21 GLORIOUS YEARS

AMA COMPUTER UNIVERSITY: FOUNDED NOVEMBER 1980

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

It is with distinct pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to the administration, faculty and students of the **AMA Computer University.**

I congratulate **AMA Computer University** for having been granted University Status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the highest honor bestowed upon an academic institution. After 21 years of providing quality IT-based education to the Filipino youth, capped by its having earned an ISO-Cerification from the Societe Generale de Surveillance and winning various IT international competitions, the University Status comes as a crowning glory to the University.

Education plays a major role in developing our youth and expediting our national recovery efforts. A strong educational system adaptable to the challenges of the 21st century benefits our people and nation as it helps in spawning bright and dynamic individuals who can make substantial contributions to nation building.

In this regard, I am confident of the capability of Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V and the capacity of **AMA Computer University** to provide quality educational services to the Filipino youth. As we tackle the challenges of the new economy, I am certain that I can count on this organization in raising the quality of education in the country, particularly in computer education, and in deepening our country's reservoir of effective leaders and nation builders.

I call upon the administration and faculty of **AMA Computer University**, under the leadership of Dr. Aguiluz to strengthen their dedication to developing our youth into responsible achievers and leaders. Let us continue providing quality education and working for youth development as noble investments in our nation's future.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay tayong lahat!*

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President, Republic of the Philippines

We celebrate our 21st Year as a university recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the international community. I wish to congratulate the AMA Computer University's Board of Trustees, the Faculty and Staff, the Officers, and most especially our students, graduates and alumni for this achievement. It was a long and arduous path but we made it to the top as the First I.T. University in Asia.

Through the years, AMA Computer University produced graduates who distinguished themselves in business, politics and government by living up to AMA's standard of excellence in the practice of their profession as information and communication technology experts.

We wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to CHED for conferring on us the much-coveted status as a university.

We also thank our international partners in education for their continuing support: Microsoft, Cisco Systems, Avaya Communication, National Computing Center-UK, Association of Business Executives-UK, LHS GEMS (University of California at Berkeley), SmartForce, Hewlett-Packard, Alpha Innovations and Fluke Networks.

To the Filipino people who unconditionally embraced the benefits of ICT and continue to support AMA Computer University in its effort to bring the Philippines to the forefront of global competition:

Congratulations to all of us!

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V
Founder and First University President
AMA Computer University

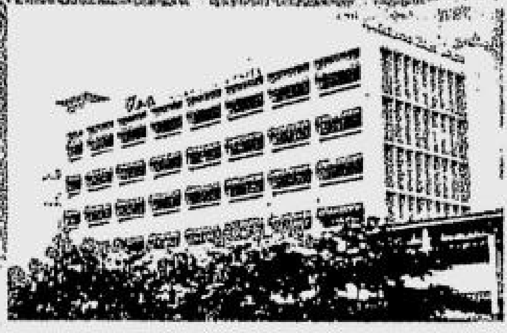
Twenty one years ago, our Founder and First University President of AMA Computer University established the first computer school in the Philippines with 13 students, a very slim faculty and minimal equipment. Despite not so favorable responses from his friends and peers, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V persisted. The overwhelming response of computer enthusiasts – students and professionals alike – backed him up. Today, with 200 campuses and 160,000 students in the Philippines and abroad, we celebrate our 21st Foundation Day with a University Status, the highest honor the Commission on Higher Education grants to an academic institution.

Humbly, we accept the honor as we face the challenges posed by that recognition. We have envisioned AMA Computer University as the leader and dominant provider of relevant and internationally recognized information technology-based education in the global market. That vision remains with your continuing support and cooperation.

Congratulations to all our officers and staff, our students and alumni, our faculty and academic leaders for their sterling performance that has made AMA worthy of its status as a university.

More power to all of you!

Amable C. Aguiluz IX
President
AMA Education System



The AMA Computer University campus in Quezon City is being developed as the Philippine's first "Intelligent Campus and Learning Resource" featuring an "IT Park" where satellite-linked, wireless LAN technology will be introduced. It will also be the site of what is planned to be "The Biggest and Most Complete I.T. Library in Asia".

Chairperson Ester A. Garcia of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) confers with AMA Computer University President Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V on future plans for higher education in the country.

University President Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V and Officers of AMA Computer University discuss plans with AMA Education System President Amable C. Aguiluz V (seated center) for the construction of "The Biggest and Most Complete I.T. Library in Asia".

AMA Computer University President Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V and VP and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. with His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the State of Bahrain where the University plans to build, with Microsoft, an "e-learning Hub for the Middle East" primarily to benefit more than 1.5 million Overseas Filipino Workers in the region. With them are, from left: Amable C. Aguiluz IX, President of AMA Education System; Richard Francis, Microsoft Philippines country manager.

Celebrating 21 Years of pioneering IT-based Degree Education in the Philippines and in Asia.

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When AMA was founded in November 1980 by Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, the use of computers was still in its infancy. The visionary in Dr. Aguiluz saw the coming dominance of this tool for the modern Filipino. He embarked on a program that would professionalize the study of computers into a full curriculum college degree course. He then trailblazed in authoring the study programs for Computer Science and eventually for Computer Engineering. Now Bachelor of Science degree courses, his original course programs are now in current application nationwide.

ISO 9001 certification granted in 1999 strengthened the globalization thrust of AMA. All its processes and standards were certified to conform to all benchmark criteria of international organizations. This global thrust was further expanded through the integration of the technologies of leading companies in information technology in AMA's curriculum. Leading companies like Cisco, National Computing Center of the United Kingdom and SmartForce are active partners in AMA education programs. AMA holds the distinction of being the only Premiere Education Partner in the Philippines of Microsoft, the world leader in software technology.

Pioneering e-learning

Three years ago, AMA launched the first e-learning venture in the Philippines that integrates the revolutionary application of information and computer technology in the delivery of education. It pioneered in the "anytime, anywhere delivery" for college courses. Recently, AMA signed an agreement with Microsoft that will establish an e-learning hub in Bahrain to service the needs of more than 1.5 million Filipino workers in the Middle East..

180,000 Students Nationwide Benefit From IT-Based AMA Courses

Every year, AMA serves the education needs of around 160,000 Filipino students, 70,000 of them in college degree courses. Its IT-based educational programs ensure these students' competitive edge in the highly competitive, technologically dependent world of today.

Social Sciences, Humanities, Communications, Arts and The Sciences – all of the world's areas of expertise can no longer turn a blind eye to the boon of computerization, the internet, Information Technology. AMA makes sure our students are in the running, out there in front.

Student Education Programs for New Enrollees, Transferees, Deserving Scholars

AMA helps aspiring students with the continually rising costs of education through various Student Loan Programs (SLPs) including a Study Now, Pay Later Plan with up to 10 years to pay. Transferees are allowed full accreditation of previous subjects through a validation process. Deserving students who are economically challenged can avail of myriad scholarship programs (AMA currently supports more than 500 scholarships nationwide).

Today, as The First I.T. University in Asia, AMA celebrates its founding by committing its resources once more to the vision of producing IT-proficient, highly skilled professionals for the Philippines, for Asia, and for the world.

AMA COMPUTER UNIVERSITY MAKES ITS MARK

AMA has been granted the much-coveted and hard-earned University Status by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), "the highest honor bestowed upon an academic institution" as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo characterizes it. With this, AMA Computer University reiterates its commitment to help the Philippines make its mark on the IT world.

AMA students and faculty have garnered some of the most prestigious international awards in Information Technology. Recently, one of its graduating students, a school-sponsored competitive entrant, garnered a "grand slam" in IT proficiency - winning the Gold in the top three (3) competitions for IT proficiency in Asia. AMA Computer University commits itself to producing more such dedicated and worthy graduates.

Another First: *"The Intelligent Campus"*

To propel this, AMA Computer University has embarked on an ambitious project to build the "Biggest and Most Complete I.T. Learning Resource" in Asia. It has started the development of a seven-story building which will house all available titles in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plus a collection of supplementary learning materials such as audio and video cassettes and CDs. It will also become a student resource for Mechatronics, Robotics and higher power computing tools. The university campus will be developed into an "Intelligent Campus" featuring an "IT Park" where leading-edge, satellite-linked wireless LAN technology will be introduced. These new technologies will allow students and faculty to access, via satellite, in-campus broadband servers. All with a view towards making the truly "paperless school" a reality for Filipinos.

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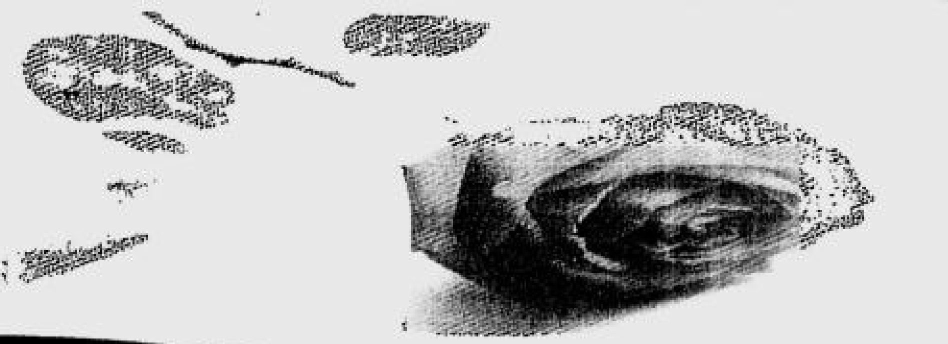
FINAL INTERVIEW BY FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE 2ND WEEK OF DECEMBER



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Substation and Engineering Department Head

- 30 to 40 years old
- Registered Electrical Engineer; professional license an advantage
- With at least 5 years supervisory work experience preferably acquired from a utility industry
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- With strong analytical, problem-solving and leadership skills
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

General Services Supervisor

- 30 to 40 years old
- Registered Mechanical Engineer; professional license an advantage
- With at least 3 years supervisory work experience preferably acquired from a utility industry
- With extensive knowledge in troubleshooting of articulated vehicles
- With strong analytical, problem-solving and leadership skills
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

Safety Engineer

- 30 to 40 years old
- Registered Electrical Engineer
- Computer literate
- Familiar with common industrial safety practices
- With at least three years related work experience; one year of which is in a supervisory capacity
- With strong analytical, problem-solving and communication skills
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

Electrical Engineers

- Registered Electrical Engineer
- Computer literate
- With at least three years work experience preferably acquired from a utility industry
- With strong analytical, problem-solving and communication skills
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

Cadet Engineers

- 21 to 25 years old
- Registered Electrical Engineer
- Computer literate
- With good scholastic record
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

Part-time Corporate Lawyer

- 26 to 35 years old
- Bar passer and preferably an IBP member
- With strong background in labor relations and standards
- Willing to report for work three times a week at the office
- With excellent communication and analytical skills

HR Specialist

- 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of BS Psychology or Behavioral Science / Management course
- With 3 years work experience in recruitment and labor relations and with background in labor law
- Computer literate
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Can work under pressure
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

OD Specialist

- 25 to 35 years old
- Graduate of BS Psychology, Industrial Engineering, Behavioral Science or Management course
- With 3 years related work experience
- Computer literate
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With strong analytical, problem-solving and organizational skills
- Can work under pressure

Customer Care Specialist

- 25 to 30 years old
- Male or Female
- A graduate of Engineering but with marketing skills or a graduate of a Marketing course but with technical knowledge
- With experience in a service or sales industry
- With excellent communication and public relations skills

Executive Secretary

- 25 to 35 years old
- Preferably female
- A graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate and knowledgeable in stenography
- With at least 3 years secretarial or related work experiences
- With excellent communication and public relations skills
- Can work with minimum supervision
- With strong organizational skills

HR Assistant

- 22 to 30 years old
- Graduate of BS Psychology, Industrial Engineering, Law or any Behavioral Science course
- Computer literate
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With strong analytical and organizational skills

Teller

- Female
- Preferably single
- 20 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably BS Accountancy or BS Computer Science
- Able to post the required cash bond for tellers

Lineman Trainee

- Male
- 18 to 23 years old
- At least High School graduate, but preferably with knowledge on practical electricity
- Physically fit and with good built
- Knows how to drive and with a valid driver's license

The above positions are urgent requirements. Please forward your resumé via e-mail at decorp_hrd4recrmnt@yahoo.com or personally submit your application letter, resumé, transcript of records and two 1x1 pictures to the HR Manager at Dagupan Electric Corporation, VERIA II Building, AB Fernandez West, Dagupan City.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
CITY OF BAYAWAN
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The City of Bayawan, Negros Oriental thru its Awards Committee invites interested suppliers/bidders to supply and deliver the following items:

1. 10 units Reconditioned Japan, Surplus 10-Wheeler Dumptrucks powered by 330 HP diesel Engine Double differential left hand drive, with manual (operation, maintenance, parts catalog) brand new tires and batteries
2. 2 units Reconditioned Japan Surplus, Crawler Bulldozer, powered by diesel engine 185 HP with Brand New track pad, links, sprocket, idlers cutting edges, and bits, batteries and manuals (operation, maintenance and parts catalog).
3. 2 units Reconditioned Japan Surplus Pay Loader, powered by 240 HP diesel engine with Brand New Tires, batteries, bucket tooth and manuals (operation, maintenance and parts catalog).
4. 2 units Reconditioned Japan Surplus Road Grader, Powered by 150 HP diesel engine with brand new tires, batteries cutting edges, and bits and manuals (operation, maintenance and parts catalog).
5. 2 units Reconditioned Japan Surplus Single Drum Vibratory Roller, ten (10) tons operating weight, Powered by 160 HP Diesel Engine and Equipped with 7" Width roller, with manuals (operation maintenance and parts catalog), Brand new tires and batteries.
6. 2 units Reconditioned Japan Surplus Hydraulic Excavator, Crawlertype, powered by 125 HP Diesel Engine and Equipped w/ 0.8 cu.m. Bucket, Hydraulic Breaker w/ Brand New Batteries, Track Links Pads, and Manuals (operation, maitenance and parts catalog).
7. 1 unit Reconditioned Japan Surplus Tractor Head, Powered by 395 HP diesel engine, Double differential, left hand drive w/ brand new tires, batteries.
8. 1 unit Reconditioned Japan Surplus Low Bed Trailer, 25T Loading Capacity, w/ Air Brakes and Brand New Tires

A prequalification of all interested bidders will be conducted on November 28, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at SP Session Hall, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental.

The following are the pre-qualification documents:

1. Certificate of Registration, (Dept. of Trade & Industry)
2. Business Permit, (Main Office)
3. Mayor's Permit, (Bayawan City)
4. VAT/Non-Vat Registration Certificate
5. Authorization of Representative
6. Certification as to Direct Importer, (Bureau of Custom)

All photocopies to be submitted must be duly authenticated by the issuing office.

Sealed bids will be accepted on November 29, 2001 not later than 10:30 in the morning by the Awards Committee at SP Session Hall, at which time and place said bids/proposal will be opened. Bid forms are available at Supply Section, Office of the City Mayor of LGU-Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. A 5% cash bond is required before your bid will be considered.

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids should circumstances so warrants.

(Sgd.) GERMAN P. SARAÑA, JR.
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov. 8 & 18, 2001)

台灣日立（蘇比克）股份有限司
TAIWAN HITACHI (SUBIC), INC.
No. 1A Binictican Drive, Subic Bay Industrial Park Phase II
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-1990/1133, Fax No. (047) 252-1500

We are in need of applicants for following positions:

GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy or Business Administration; with at least 10 to 15 years of experience in Accounting and Finance Management.

All applicants must be 35 to 45 years old; male; preferably knows how to speak Mandarin.

Working Place: Subic Bay Freeport Zone

MATERIAL DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Graduate of Business Administration or Mechanical Engineering; with at least 10 to 15 years of experience in Import and Export Processing.

All applicants must be 35 to 45 years old, male; preferably knows how to speak Mandarin; preferably with experience in the Air Conditioning or its related industry.

Working Place: Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Qualified and interested applicants may send their Resumé with their NBI Clearance, Birth Certificate and Employment Certificate to:

ATTY. SEVERINO PASTOR
Head, Labor Center
Mr. ROMMEL AQUINO
Division Chief Recruitment

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2001

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Accreditation No. 66025-5

Al-Mutawa Samyong NDT Co. LTD (AMSYCO), a leading Inspection and NDT Company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has vacancies for the following qualified and experienced personnel:

MECHANICAL/ WELDING INSPECTOR

- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent
- Minimum of five (5) years experience of inspecting process plant items including piping, valves, fittings, etc.
- Holding AWS-CWI Certificate or other internationally recognized qualification
- Fully conversant with API, ASME and ANSI design codes and related specifications
- Experienced on SAUDI ARAMCO projects and holding SAUDI ARAMCO approval

PAINTING/COATING INSPECTORS

- Minimum of five (5) years experience in Painting/Coating Inspection on Piping, Pressure Vessels and related materials in addition to five (5) years experience on actual Painting / Coating application
- Must be fully conversant with critical coating applications e.g. FBE
- Holding NACE, CSWIP-BGAS Painting Certificate or other internationally recognized qualification
- Experienced on SAUDI ARAMCO projects and holding SAUDI ARAMCO approval

PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent
- Minimum of five (5) years experience of inspecting vessels, columns, heat exchangers
- Holding AWS-CWI Certificate or other internationally recognized qualification
- Fully conversant with vessel and exchanger design codes and related specifications including ASME Section V & IX, TEMA, ANSI-B-31.3, B-31.4, or B-31.8
- Qualified to ASNT Level II in one or more NDT methods (RT/MT/PT/UT)
- Experienced on SAUDI ARAMCO projects and holding SAUDI ARAMCO approval

NDT TECHNICIANS (RT/MT/PT/UT)

- Qualified to ASNT Level II
- Fully conversant with API 650, 1104, ANSI B31.3, ASME Sec. VIII, ASME Sec. V, and AWS DI-1
- With Saudi Arabia work experience

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7484-A Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City
Attention: Ms. SARAH F. CABANGIS
Telephone Nos. 890-8115 to 17 / Fax No. 890-7907
Email: pocmc@tri-isys.com

For Manpower Pooling Only / This AD is approved by POEA
Beware of Illegal Recruiter / No Fees To Be Collected

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JOB MARKET

DKT

We are a non-government organization involved in social marketing and distribution of contraceptive products. We are inviting successful and driven individuals to fill in the vacant positions of:

Regional Manager (Luzon)

Responsible for the overall supervision of sales personnel and management. The focus is on the sales function (setting targets, training staff, monitoring and increasing sales performance), implementation and monitoring of product A & P campaigns, managing distributor/partner relationships, monitoring sales revenues and collection, and reporting.

QUALIFICATIONS:

At least 2 to 3 years supervisory experience in sales (consumer/pharmaceutical products).
Proven track record of high achievement.
Solid marketing background.
Exceptional interpersonal communication skills.
Computer literate (spreadsheets and word processing).
Ability to conceptualize and implement A & P activities at the field level in the region.
Familiarity with the region.
A team player is a must.

Brand Specialist (Ethical Products)

The Brand Manager for Ethical Products will be responsible for the overall performance of DKT's business in fertility and reproductive health product/brand management. The successful candidate will develop and implement a strategy geared to surpass current sales achievement. He/she will be responsible for product development and market expansion focusing on hormonal and other related ethical products. He/she will be a part of a dynamic marketing team, and a highly successful and motivated sales force.

QUALIFICATIONS:

We seek an experienced and energetic manager with a solid background in sales and marketing of more than 5-7 years. A strong focus in contraceptive technology, family planning, and reproductive health is a requirement. Experience and familiarity with government and non-government organizations is a distinct advantage.

We offer a package commensurate with qualifications and experience. All qualified and interested parties may submit a letter of application (indicating the position you are applying for), photo and CV, not later than ***November 29, 2001****, to:*

DKT PHILIPPINES, INC.
5th Flr. Cedar Executive Bldg. II
No. 26 Timog Avenue, Quezon City
Attention: HRD

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of the following Information Technology Resource requirements:

PROJECT	REQUIREMENTS	APPROVED BUDGET
1. Total Network Solution	Upgrade of existing Local Area Network (LAN) of DND through the evaluation of existing LAN hardware (servers, workstations, hubs and switches, and cables) and software then the subsequent supply integration, installation, testing and commissioning of an enhanced and upgraded DND LAN	12,000,000.00
2. Integrated Audio-Visual Conference Facility	Based on the design that will be provided by DND bidders shall supply an integrated audio-visual facility at DND Conference Room located at Social Hall 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. The objective is to upgrade the existing DND Conference Room by increasing its seating capacity and transforming it into a state of the art conference facility with a central control-system for sounds, lights, and multi-media presentation equipment. It must have a "plug-and-play" technology and be user-friendly to visiting or guest presentors through the installation of access ports and terminals. The upgraded conference room must have the capacity to be utilized as an Operation Center when necessary.	2,300,000.00
3. Total Management Solution for Unstructured Documents	Evaluation supply, integration, installation, testing and commissioning of a system that would manage the archive and would be-archived documents of DND. The system will handle the management documents that remained unstructured such as signed contracts, documents, issuances, circular, etc. The hardware and software must provide for user-friendly recording, indexing, documents digitization, storing, accessing, retrieval, and reproduction system. It must have provisions for integration into LAN Upgrade Project of DND.	5,000,000.00

The above specifications clarify a previous Invitation To Apply For Eligibility And To Bid that was published on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2001 in this newspaper. Detailed specifications will be provided to prospective bidders during the pre-bid conference on Nov. 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the DND Training Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for pre-qualification on or before Nov. 26, 2001 at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2001)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last 2 years
7. Certificate of Distributorship

Inquiries on the details and particulars of the Instructions to Bidders and other bid documents, shall be entertained during office hours at the Office of Administrative Services, OSND. Prospective bidders are instructed to visit AFP website (www.armedforces.mil.ph) for updates and/or bid bulletins. Deadline for submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on Dec. 5, 2001, 2:00 PM at the DND Training Center.

This Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Services website at www.procurementservice.org and the AFP website at www.armedforces.mil.ph and shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the DBM Procurement Service and the Department of National Defense (DND).

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is the lowest calculated responsive bid as evaluated by the OSND, Bids and Awards Committee on Information Technology Resources (BAC-ITR).

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO D. BLANCAFLOR**
Assistant Secretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 18, 2001)

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-02-001)

An international organization is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of residential maintenance and warehousing services. The Contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by the international organization. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates or at fixed rates on an hourly/daily basis as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are to begin on or about May 1, 2002 and end April 30, 2004 with options to renew the contract. A direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 02-001 which may be obtained on November 19, 2001 at USAID, Office of the Regional Procurement, 8F PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924 look for May Bringula.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-02-002)

An international organization is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of janitorial services. The Contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by the international organization. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates or at fixed rates on an hourly/daily basis as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are to begin on or about May 1, 2002 and end April 30, 2004 with options to renew the contract. A direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 02-002 which may be obtained on November 19, 2001 at USAID, Office of the Regional Procurement, 8F PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924 look for May Bringula.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute for CY 2002.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) from the Property and Supply Department c/o Ms. Mae Marie E. Hernandez from **November 19, 2001** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (excluding holidays and weekends).

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 p.m.	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders Venue & Time	Bid Opening	Venue & Time
Janitorial	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 9:00 a.m.
Security	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 1:30 p.m.
Engineering Maintenance	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 3:00 p.m.

Interested Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. SEC registration certificate with articles of incorporation (copy should be properly notarized)/DTI business name registration
2. Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
3. BIR value added tax registration
4. List of clients in the past 5 years
5. Certification of performance for existing clients (except RITM)
6. Organizational Profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
7. Inventory of existing equipment
8. Audited Financial Statements stamped "received' by the BIR for the last two calendar years

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to waive his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the scheduled day of bid opening accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price. The bid security may be in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

RITM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Institute.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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sbma
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4276 * 4214 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

November 15, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

I ONE (1) UNIT 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK
II HANDHELD RADIO TRANCEIVERS
III CONFERENCE ROOM FURNITURES FOR COMMAND CENTER, BLDG. 229, SBFZ
IV MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE CUTTING, TRIMMING, PRUNING OF TREES ENCROACHING OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION LINES

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Products
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **November 23, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.**
Secretary, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (045) 900-0092

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY of:

Package 016-S-2001:	**KWH METER, GE 1-70 S, 3W with BASE 240 V (Recon) - 5,000 pcs.**
Package 017-S-2001:	**BX Wire #8** **2 Wire Stranded - 50 rolls**
Package 018-S-2001:	**STEEL POLES, Octagonal** **(ISO Certified)** **35 Feet - 50 pcs.** **30 Feet - 50 pcs.**

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga from **November 19, 2001** to **November 22, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 22, 2001.**

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd.) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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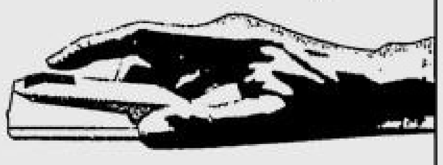

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Day before publication

MARIA SANCHEZ SIONGCO

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 17, 2001 at the age of 98.

Her loving children **Bienvenida** (†) and **Pedro David** (†), **Zoilo** and **Felicidad Siongco**, **Loreta** (†) and **Mateo Encarnacion Sr.**, **Filomena** and **Ricardo Gopez**, **Mercedes** and **Narciso Remo Jr.**, **Rosita** and **Antonio Masa**, **Estrella Gopiao**, **Zenaida** and **Luis Gibe**, **Conchita** and **Chris Hansen**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, relatives, friends and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love her, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel B-7, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. She will be transferred to Good Shepherd Chapel at Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga on Monday, November 19, 2001, 8:00 a.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Message of Thanks

LORETO "LURING" DUEÑAS LEONEN

December 9, 1932 — November 1, 2001

The **Leonen-Dueñas** family would like to express profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at her untimely demise on November 1, 2001.

We found strength and are humbly grateful to God knowing that she touched so many lives and organizations in her concern for others. She will continue to live in our hearts.

We wish to express as well, our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, went to the wake and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our bereavement.

DR. THELMA MARIE PINEDA PAZ

July 6, 1964 - November 16, 2001

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Elena Chapel
Sta. Elena, Marikina City.

> ***"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me wil never die."***
>
> *John 11:25-26*

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For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760

AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Bureau of Agricultural Research invites all interested Bidders to pre-qualify for the bidding of supply and installation of IT equipment.

B. The following pre-qualification requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR-BAC) at 3rd Flr. ATI Bldg. Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. Company Profile
2. SEC Registration (Corporation)
   DTI Registration (Sole proprietorship)
   (Accreditation for Repair Shop)
3. License to Operate (Mayor's Permit)
4. ITR for the last two years (stamped by BIR)
5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years
6. VAT/E-VAT/NON-VAT Registration
7. Number of Employees
8. List of clients within the year with their respective telephone numbers and addresses
9. The company must indicate in its application the category/classification/grouping they would like to participate in
10. Certification that the company is not affiliated with other companies with similar nature of business
11. Listing of product offered
12. Certification of dealership from authorized distributor

NOTE:
- ONLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
- ONLY AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS/RESELLERS/DEALERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

C. Deadline for submission: **November 28, 2001**

D. Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

E. The Bureau of Agricultural Research reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the Bureau.

F. For further particulars, please inquiries at Telephone Nos.: 928-8505/928-8624 local 153 or 253 c/o Ms. Corazon L. Barretto or Mr. Bernie S. Manuel.

(Sgd.) ELISEO R. PONCE
Director

(PDI--Nov. 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Spider skill

Q. Why doesn't a spider get caught in its own web?

A. Spider webs consist of spirals of sticky threads arranged on a framework of dry, slippery threads that radiate out from the center. The spider simply walks on the dry threads, thereby avoiding the sticky substance. It keeps from slipping by grasping the slippery strands with curved claws extending from its legs. For insurance, the spider's legs are coated with an oil that allows it to take short trips on the sticky substance without getting stuck.

Ooops! Spiders do not eat their prey as most people believe. Rather, they drink them. Spiders inject an enzyme into their victim that digests and dissolves the tissues. They then suck these juices from their victims for nourishment.

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WORD WATCH

Pavilion (puh vil yun) : from the Latin *papilio,* 'butterfly.'

PDI -- November 18, 2001

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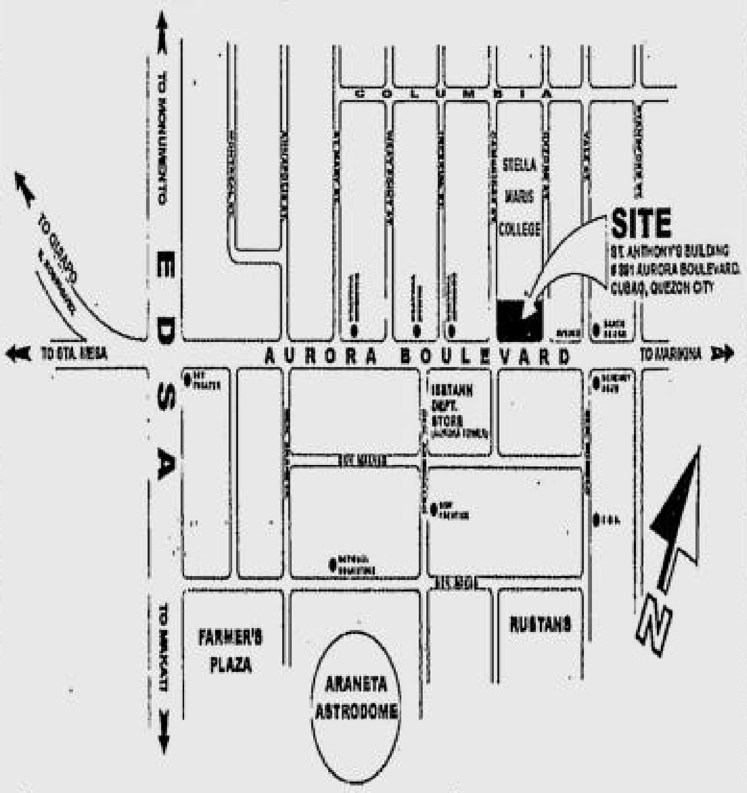

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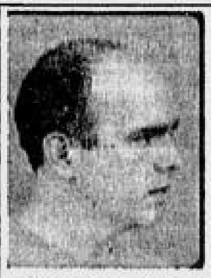

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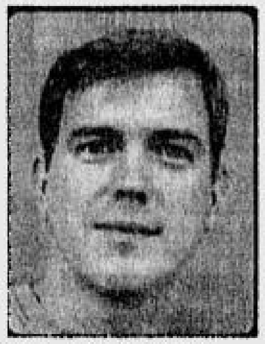

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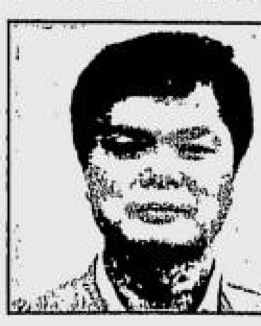

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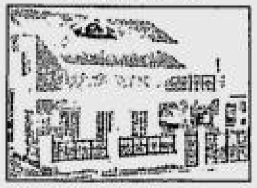

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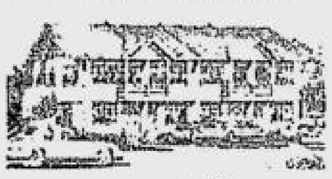

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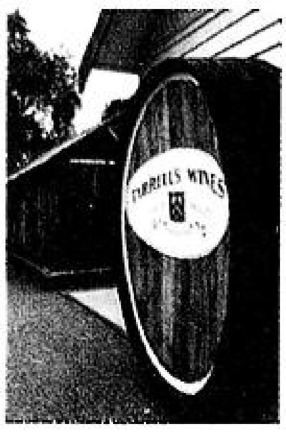
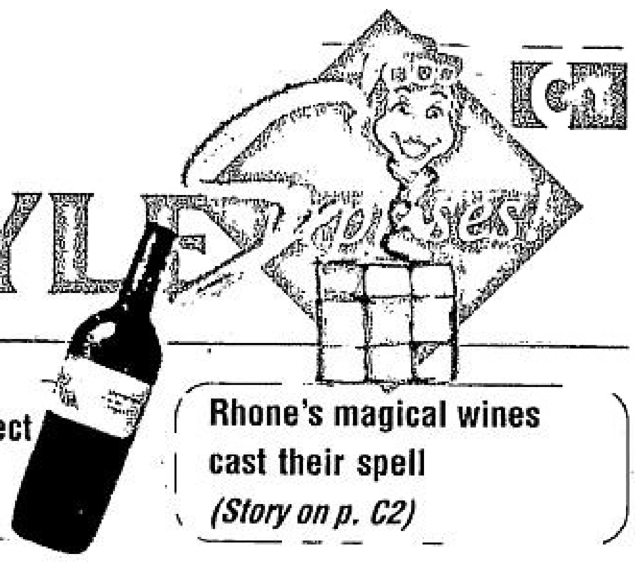
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Roll out the barrels



Grape expectations in Hunter Valley
By Chelo Banal-Formoso
(Story on p. C5)

California wine gets respect
(Story on p. C4)



Rhone's magical wines cast their spell
(Story on p. C2)

Making pizza at home with Anton has never been this much fun.

Home is Citta Italia.
For only
P11,311 a month.

"It's amazing how much fun you can have with your kids when you're not worried about something.

I remember when we used to rent a small place in a crowded neighborhood in the city. My husband and I felt regretful each time we settled the rent; it was like paying for something that can never be ours. And on top of that, the neighborhood, bad roads and poor security bothered us.

We were pleased when we saw Citta Italia. Crown Asia has always built beautiful homes and fine communities. But we were ecstatic when we learned about the flexible payment options: we could actually afford to own a home here. The rate was almost as much as our monthly rental fee!

We rarely worry about security and convenience now. My friends love my Italian-inspired villa (they couldn't believe it only takes P11,311 a month!). And best of all, because I feel at ease, I spend more quality time with Anton.

There truly is no place like home. But there's nothing like owning the home you live in."

Tina, 35, spends time with son, Anton, 5, in the kitchen of their Citta Italia Romagna home.

The two-storey Romagna home has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a family room, maid's room, viewing deck, and a two-car garage, all covering [illegible] of 188 sqm.

- Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite is decorated with Romanesque statues and a lovely fountain. Paved streets and sidewalks ribbon around a neighborhood of Italian-inspired villas and beautifully landscaped gardens.
- Choose a home from 10 Italian styles: Adrianna, Alessandria, Chellini, Francesca, Marci, Medici, Romagna, Trevi, Venice and Vinci. The villas have two or three bedrooms and floor areas of 48 sqm to 188 sqm.
- Relax in the premiere clubhouse of Citta Italia, Piazza Italia, which has a swimming pool, basketball court, multi-purpose hall, business center and gym.

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For more details on Citta Italia homes, feel free to call us at 873 1612 and 873 6709 or visit our website: www.crownasia.com.ph

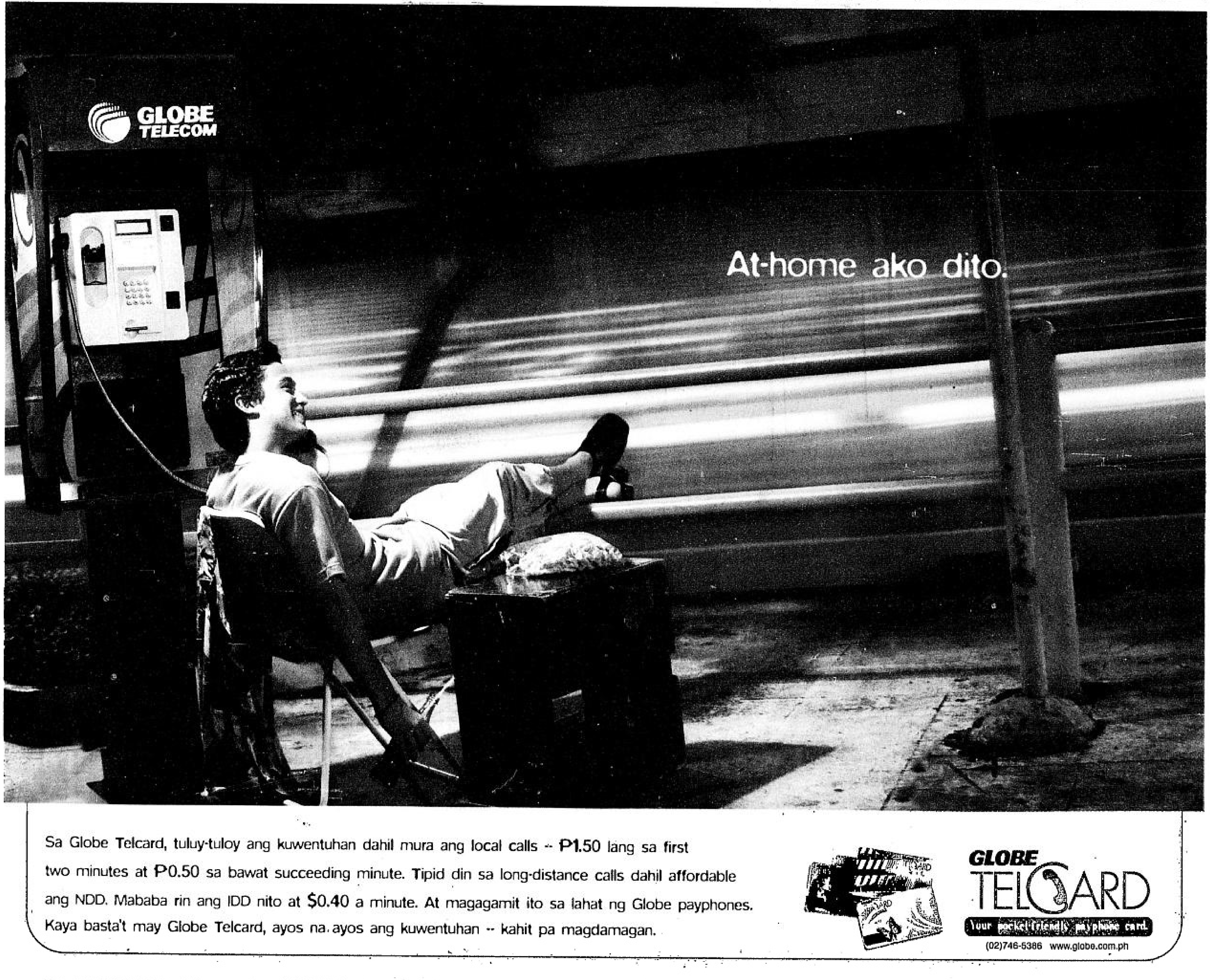
CITTA ITALIA

[illegible] Coastal Road. Take the Coastal Road to Zapote then turn right at Aguinaldo Highway going to Imus until Palico Road. Watch out for Robinsons Grocery on the left. Turn left at Robinsons to Mambog Road. Watch out for the Citta Italia billboard, then turn right at BCA Road. Follow the cemented road until you see Citta Italia on your left.

Via Alabang: Take the Alabang-Zapote Road towards Cavite. Watch out for SM Southmall, then turn left at Moonwalk Village in Marcos Alvarez Avenue. Follow the road to Molino (Molino Wet and Dry Market will be your landmark) and turn left. After 200 meters, turn right to Bahayang Pag-asa (Shell Station will be at the corner). Follow directional signs going to Mambog Road until you see Citta Italia on your right.

Via South Superhighway: Take the Carmona exit and follow the National Highway towards [illegible]. Upon reaching Aguinaldo Highway at the end of the stretch turn right. You will pass Immaculate Conception Academy, Waltermart, La Salle University, [illegible] and Robinsons. Watch out for Robinsons Grocery on your right. Turn right at Robinsons to Mambog Road and watch out for the Citta Italia billboard. Turn right at BCA Road and follow the cemented road until you see Citta Italia on your left.

Crown Asia



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Rhone's magical wines cast their spell

By Tita M. Trillo

THE RHONE Valley's charm lies in its Old World ambience.

Things are designed on a small scale. Machines simply would not fit in with the topography of the land. It is the last place in the world where wines are handmade.

I was in Rhone this summer, the time when all Parisians and tourists travel to the south of France, and I realized why Peter Mayle, the English travel writer, fell for these places. Everything seems to be more relaxed and provincial in style in this region.

I remember clearly the magnificent terrain—granite and schist, limestone and chalk, and clay. The steep mountains were dotted with olive and cherry groves, almond and pine trees, and alongside were beautiful wide spans of vineyards.

I was awed by the famous Chateauneuf du Pape (New Chateau of the Pope), in medieval times the site of the summer residence of the head of the Catholic church. The ruins of this summer papal palace dominate the hills of Avignon. Here old vines grow on quaternary terraces reflecting the different pastel colors of flat pebbles, which absorb heat by day and feed it back to the vines at night.

The vines are so stressed and punished because of the notable absence of soil. The roots of the vines have to dig deeper to obtain nutrients, a condition which produces more sugar but fewer fruits, giving more depth and character to the wine.

I immersed myself in the beauty and romance of the region where food and great wines were the focus. I relished the wonderful local meals like homemade paté and hams, sumptuous stews, olives and sausages, and slabs of country bread to wipe off the sauce and clean the plate for the next course. With my favorite wine, La Bernardine Chateauneuf Du Pape 1990, I savored the freshly picked sauteed chanterelles and the simple grilled beef sirloin.

THE AUTHOR amid the French oak barrels where wines are aged in the cellars of M. Chapoutier.

LA CAVE at Beluga Bistro & Pravda Wine Bar—a perfect setting at 16ºC, like the underground cellars of France

Recreating the Rhone experience

I committed to memory almost every detail of that Rhone experience to bring home and try to replicate. The intimate wine-tasting and dinner called "The Magical Wines of Rhone Valley" featured products from the renowned house of M. Chapoutier. Members of Ordre Mondial des Gourmets Degustateurs, a chapter of Chaine des Rotisseurs, graced the event. They included Fred Fricke, Alexander Raisbeck, Ignacio Jimenez, Reiner and Margrit Gloor, and Rudolph and Elizabeth Lietz. Also there were Alain Borgers, Edsa Shangri-La's general manager; and Joe Ledesma, chief executive officer of St. Luke's Hospital's. Media guests were Amando Doronila, Jullie Yap Daza, Michaela Fenix, Andy del Rosario and Lupe Romulo, who was engaged in casual conversation with Anthony Trillo.

Venue was La Cave, a private wine cellar inside Beluga Bistro and Pravda Wine Bar which, at 16ºC, was just like the underground cellars of France making it perfect for the occasion. The table was decorated with lavender-scented candles and lily flowers arranged in classical wooden crates.

Chef de Cuisine Bernie Olivarez, a product of Paris' Le Cordon Bleu, treated us to a dinner *sans rival*. We started with aperitif of *pissaladiere* pastry with caramelized onions, olive and anchovy; *crostini* with roasted bell peppers and goat cheese; *tapenade palmiers*, marinated olives and thyme-toasted almonds. A subtle combination of Bourboulenc and White Grenache in Cotes du Rhone Blanc/Belleruche '96 was a perfect complement to this lineup.

The most flavorful roasted garlic soup I ever tasted in my entire life followed. It blended well with the Crozes Hermitage Blanc '96, which has the fruitiness and freshness of peach and apricot.

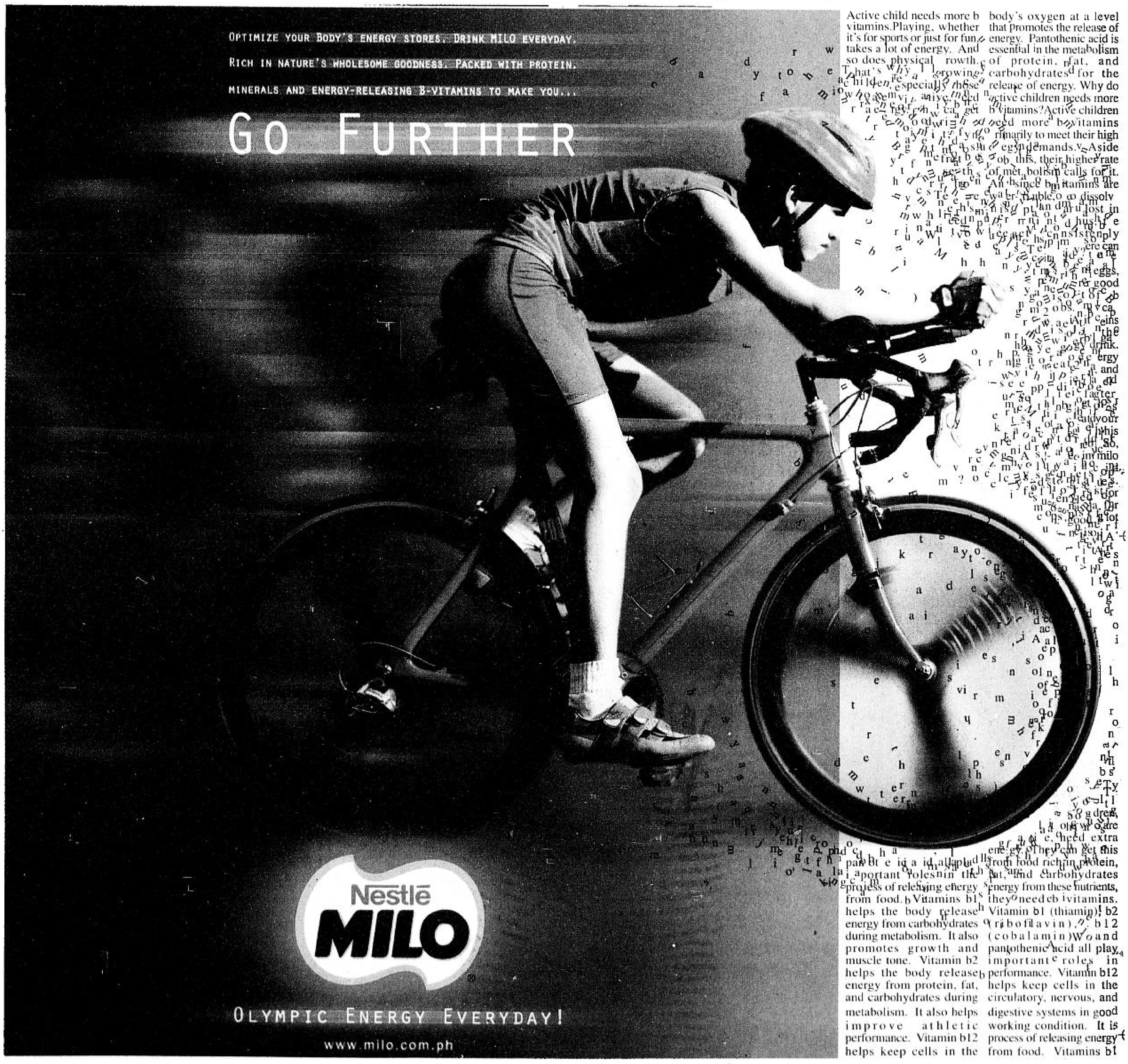
The entrée was *lapu-lapu* in potato crust with saffron sauce made even more elegant by hints of lime blossom and floral aromas that also characterize the wine that went with it, a Chateauneuf du Pape Blanc '94.

The majestic main course, roasted rack of lamb with rosemary and garlic, was served with ratatouille and a wonderful wine, my favorite from the Rhone Valley, Chateauneuf du Pape Rouge '96, which was filled with aromas of cherry and *morello*.

After the main course came *la fromage—assiette des fromages*, three cheeses, grapes, walnut and grapes, which went very well with Banyuls '96. The Black Grenache in the wine brought aromas of orange, pepper and a touch of chocolate.

Dessert was a chocolate *mille-feuille* with espresso chocolate *ganache* and raspberry *coulis*. Complementing the dessert was a well-balanced Muscat de Beaumes de Venice '97 that had a powerful, rich and elegant nose.

"The Magical Wines of Rhone Valley" was simply an evening of great food and great wine that masterfully recreated my experience in the Rhone Valley. As the evening progressed, the magical wines of the Rhone Valley cast its spell on everyone present and the cellar was filled with wonderful conversations. People remained in high spirits well into the small hours of the evening.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Active child needs more b vitamins. Playing, whether it's for sports or just for fun, takes a lot of energy. And so does physical rowth. That's why growing children, especially those who are very active need [illegible]

body's oxygen at a level that promotes the release of energy. Pantothenic acid is essential in the metabolism of protein, fat, and carbohydrates for the release of energy. Why do active children needs more b vitamins? Active children need more b vitamins primarily to meet their high energy demands. Aside of this, their higher rate of metabolism calls for it. And since b vitamins are water-soluble [illegible]

[illegible] important roles in the process of releasing energy from food. Vitamins b1 helps the body release energy from carbohydrates during metabolism. It also promotes growth and muscle tone. Vitamin b2 helps the body release energy from protein, fat, and carbohydrates during metabolism. It also helps improve athletic performance. Vitamin b12 helps keep cells in the

[illegible] need extra energy. They can get this from food rich in protein, fat, and carbohydrates energy from these nutrients, they need b vitamins. Vitamin b1 (thiamin), b2 (riboflavin), b12 (cobalamin) and pantothenic acid all play important roles in performance. Vitamin b12 helps keep cells in the circulatory, nervous, and digestive systems in good working condition. It is process of releasing energy from food. Vitamins b1

THE SPIRITS of the USA straight from the wineries of Napa and Sonoma valleys.

A TOUCH of star quality from Evita country

AUSTRALIA/
NEW ZEALAND

WINES Down Under make a splash.

NOBODY knows wine better than the French.

Filipinos toast a grand experience

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

IMAGINE taking a tour of some of the world's best wineries in one hour flat, not to mention tasting the fine cheeses and great cuisine from these exquisite wine regions. You could even have cigars, too, if you like them.

Such was the experience last Thursday when Ralph's Wines gathered 250 labels from 10 countries around the world at the main ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental in Makati City for what was aptly dubbed "The Grand Wine Experience."

A first of its kind, the wine exposition cum tasting event was truly a delightful treat for wine lovers. One could sample labels from different regions with bottles strategically set up on tables around the ballroom. Attendants poured generous amounts of various types of wine into an endless queue of glasses. Among the brands guests sampled were Alexis Lichine, Cruse and Pasquier Desvignes from France; Jacob's Creek and Wyndham Estate from Australia; Sutter Home, Columbia Crest and Chateau Ste. Michelle from the United States; Rio de Plata from Argentina; Long Mountain from South Africa; Terra Andina from Chile; Marques de Riscal and Palacio de la Vega from Spain; Zonin from Italy.

The marathon tasting event began at 6 p.m. and lasted all the way till midnight. Guests had their fill of Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Beaujolais, Riesling, Pinot Noir, Zinfandel, Merlot—whatever wine you fancied, it was sure to be there. The food was equally excellent—Cajun shrimp, turkey canapés and good old hotdogs at the American table; *gambas* and *torta de chorizo* at Spain's; a wide selection of cheeses from France; beef from New Zealand. Every participating country was well represented not only by the wines of their region but also by their cuisine.

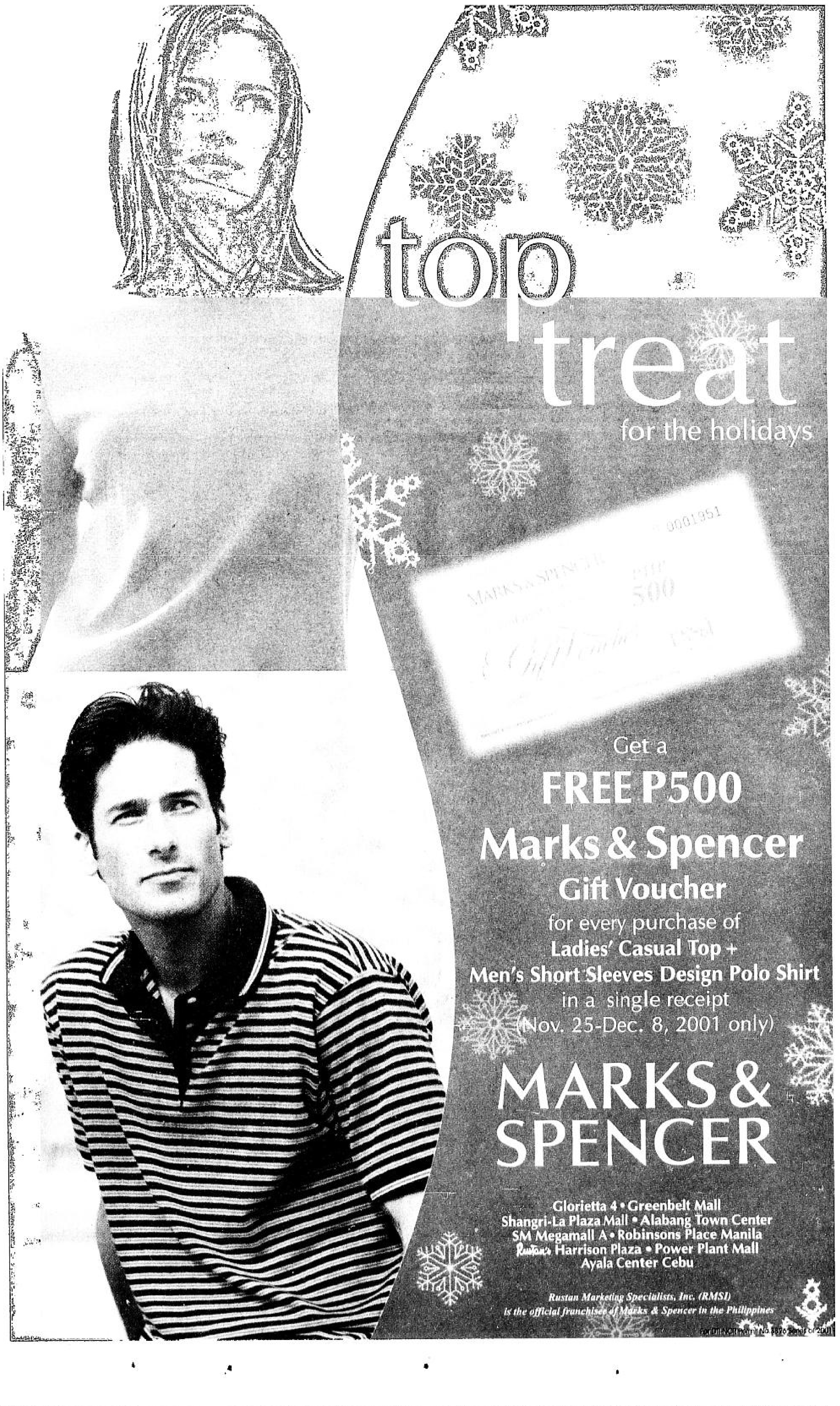
Ralph's has 14 branches all over the Philippines and, as Ronnie Joseph, one of the company's owners, put it, "you can walk into a Ralph's and be assured of finding whatever label is here this evening," he said. If the label is not in stock, they could always place an order for you.

First ever

Patterned after wine shows held all over Europe and the United States, "The Grand Wine Experience" was the first ever wine show of its kind to be held in the Philippines. The jampacked ballroom that evening only proved that Filipinos know how to enjoy and appreciate good wine.

After the wine tasting, which must have made many guests tipsy, there was good old Starbucks coffee. The coffeemaker was strategically positioned by the ballroom's exit to serve hot cups of Java to clear minds made woozy by all that spirit. *In vino veritas*? In a way, the essence of each participating country was revealed through the different wines and cuisine. Truly, it was an evening that every wine connoisseur would remember for a very long time.

CHILE is fast gaining a reputation for its fine blends.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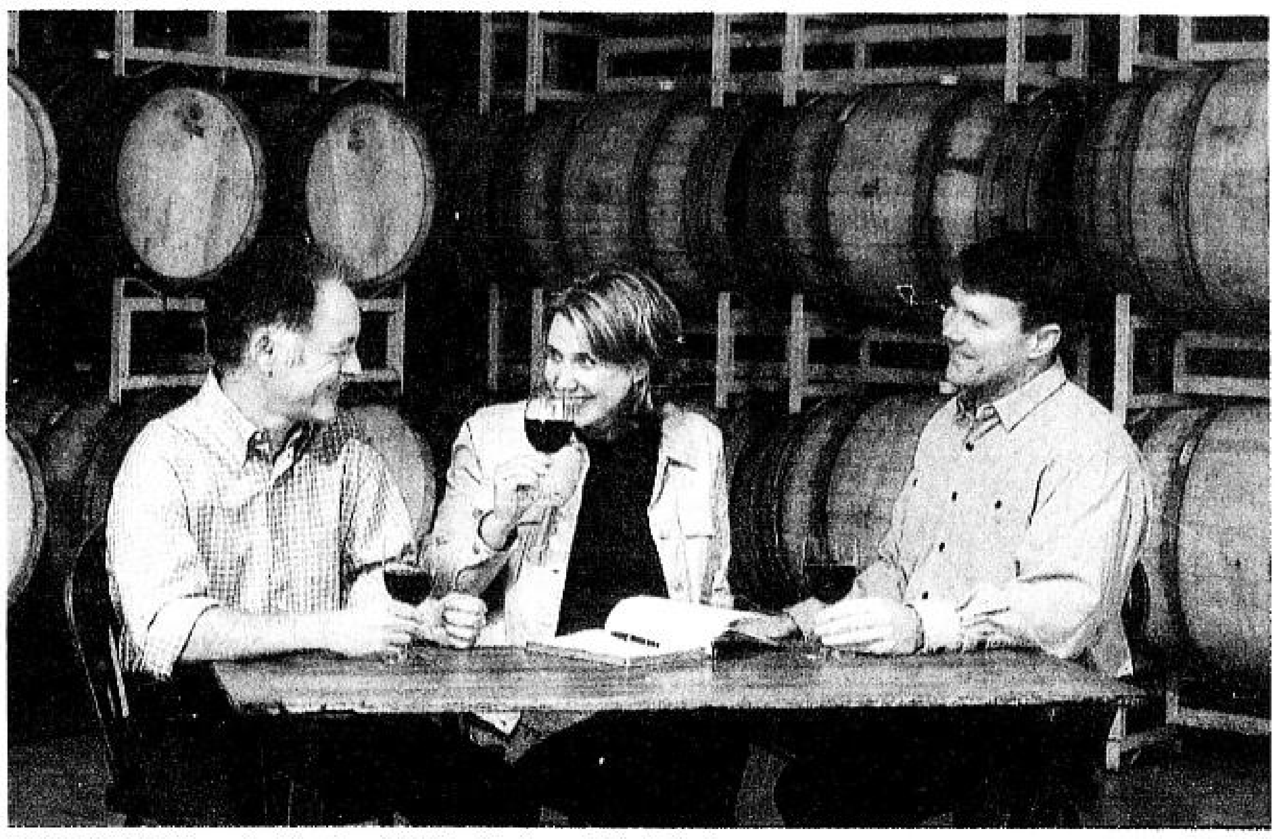
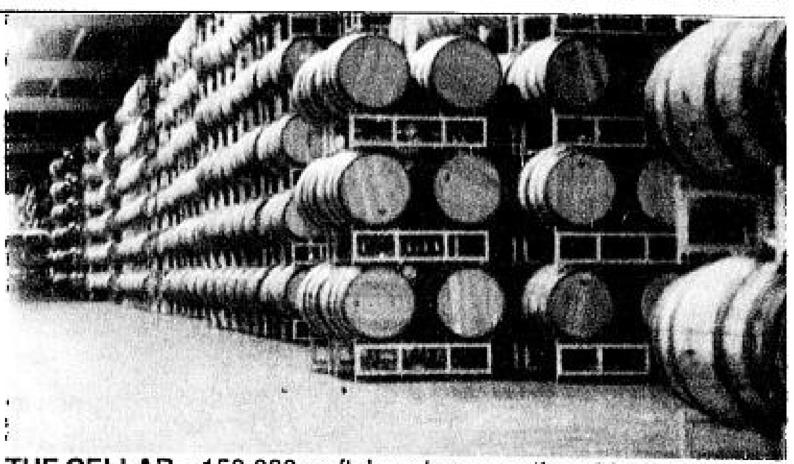
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3826 Series of 2001

> Wines are styled specifically for the international market, relying on knowledge of consumers' changing tastes and an ability to create products that respond to their preferences



FROM LEFT, Marcello Montecelli, Gina Gallo and Matt Gallo



THE CELLAR—150,000 sq ft, housing more than 60,000 barrels of slowly aging wine

AWARD-WINNING [illegible]

California wines get respect

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

CALIFORNIA winemakers Ernest and Julio Gallo's commitment to ensure customer satisfaction, an integral part of the company's culture, has not only been rewarded by a growth in sales but in various labels that rival the world's best.

The 1996 E&J Gallo Sonoma County Cabernet Sauvignon and the 1997 E&J Gallo Coastal Selection Cabernet Sauvignon just won the 2001 Concours de Qualite des Vins in Paris, France and the 2001 Concours Mondial Bruxelles in Belgium, respectively.

Using grape varieties from its several vineyards in different micro-climates of Sonoma (or the American Viticultural Areas or appellations), E&J Gallo, the world's largest producer and exporter of California wines, was able to come up with products of great complexity and depth of flavor.

Many of the wines were styled specifically for the international market, relying on the company's astute knowledge of the consumers' changing tastes and an ability to create products that respond to their preferences.

E&J Gallo's wines range from retail to restaurant or fine wines. So-called retail wines are blended from various Gallo and other Sonoma County vineyards, and they include the 1999 E&J Gallo Wine Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon and the 1998 E&J Gallo Turning Leaf Zinfandel.

Top-of-the-line

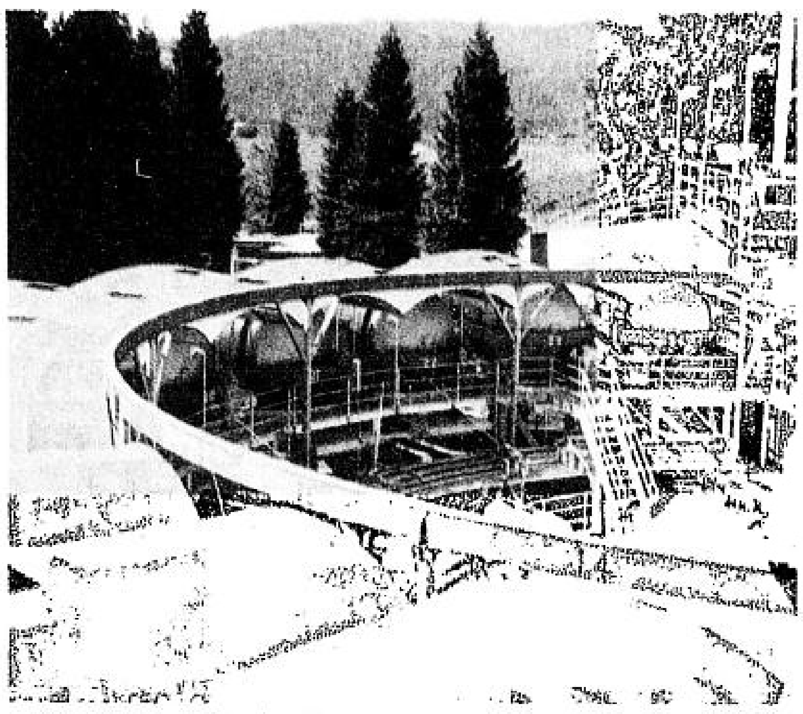
Considered the company's top-of-the-line labels are the "restaurant or fine wines," made from selected grapes from California's finest wine region or from select varietal grapes from Sonoma County. They include the 1998 E&J Gallo Sycamore Canyon Cabernet Sauvignon and the 1998 E&J Gallo Sonoma County Chardonnay.

High-end products are single-vineyard varietals and estate bottled wines. The single-vineyard wines represent individual Gallo vineyards and the varietals like the 1996 Barrelli Creek or the 1996 Frei Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon.

Even more valuable are estate-bottled wines, of course, premium labels that are currently limited to Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. Only the finest grapes from each vintage are selected and handpicked from the very best single vineyard blocks to produce wines that are concentrated and balanced. The Gallo of Sonoma winery produces 400,000 cases a year.

Founders Ernest and Julio were very lucky to have chosen Sonoma in the state of California as the source for their grapes. Sonoma's wide expanse of land offered something not found anywhere else—a series of valleys both alike and distinct, with unique micro-climates that give out the classic "warm days and cool nights" that are so critical for fine grape growing and winemaking.

ZINFANDEL grapes up close



GALLO has a multitude of fermentors, including 14 rotary fermentors on the Australian model.

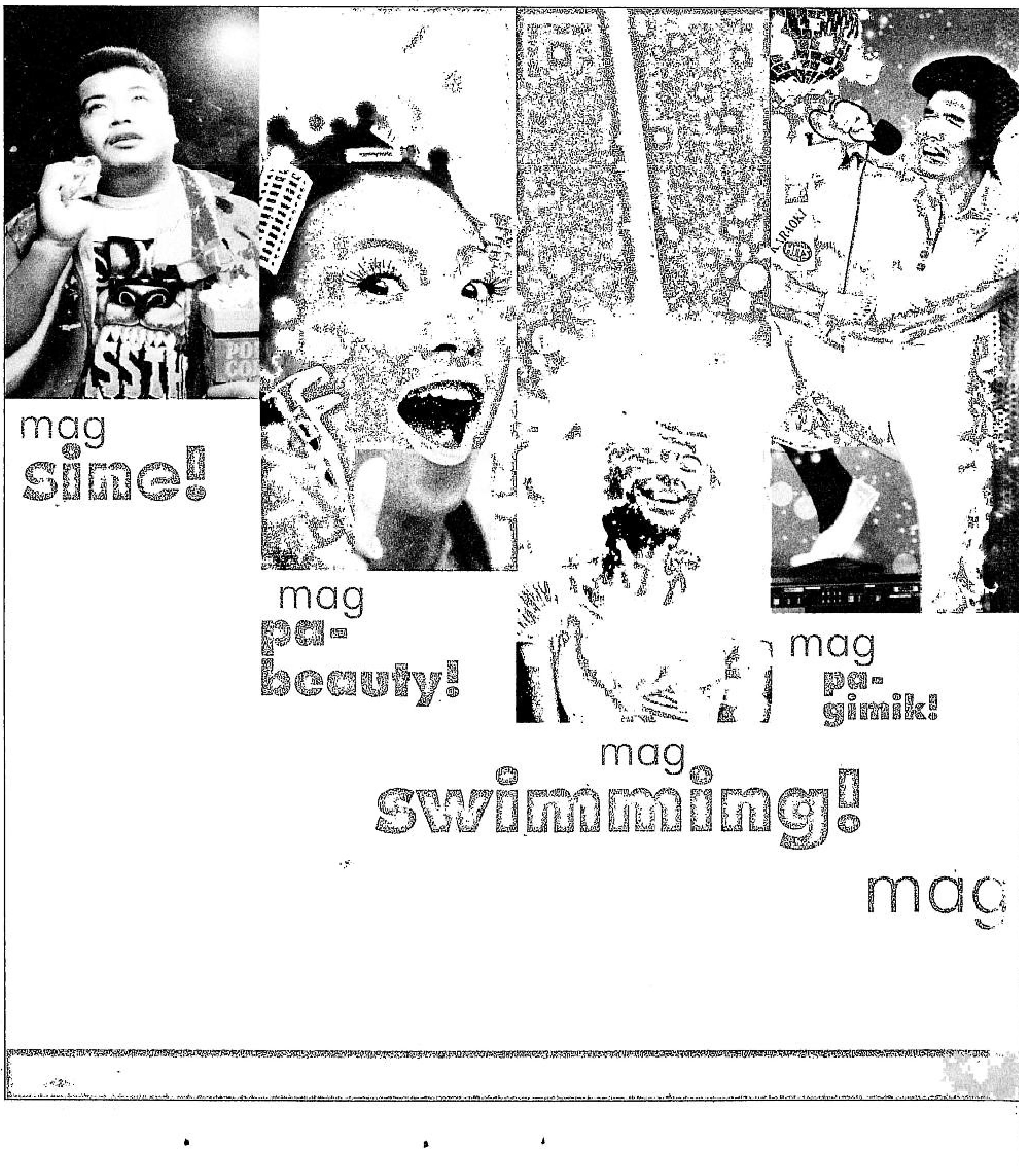
Two good reasons

Now on its seventh decade of wine-making, E&J Gallo chose Sonoma for two good reasons: soil and climate, important considerations for any vintner. With the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays to the south, cool breezes and heavy fog would creep over the mountains and hills every night until dispelled by the warm California sun. This gives the region "warm days, cool nights" to give the vines longer "cooking time," the period during which the grapes are allowed to hang on the vines to develop their individual colors, flavors, tannins. The company has about 1,600 hectares of vine, a personal investment that is unparalleled.

From the start of E&J Gallo's winemaking days in 1933, Julio was the farmer and brother Ernest, the marketing man. But both agreed that whatever they did, they would do it for the next generation—their grandchildren. Although Julio, now in his 90s, is still at the head of management (Ernest died in 1983 in a car accident), the company's direction is now in the hands of his grandchildren Matt and Gina Gallo, who now oversee day-to-day operations. Gina, has gone into where few women used to tread. She is now the company's principal winemaker, after studying under the stewardship of skilled winemaker Marcelo Montecelli.

Competition makes E&J Gallo a better wine company. Matt and Gina continue to take their cue from Ernest and Julio in running the company and dealing with competition. They are fine-tuning what their grandfathers have achieved adapting what they learned to the challenges the company will face in the 21st century.

The Philippines is an emerging market in the Asia-Pacific for E&J Gallo, which sees this country getting initiated to the pleasure of dining with wine on the table. "It's only a matter of educating the Filipinos on [drinking] wines," according to Thomas Hsiao, E&J Gallo's marketing associate for Asia/Pacific.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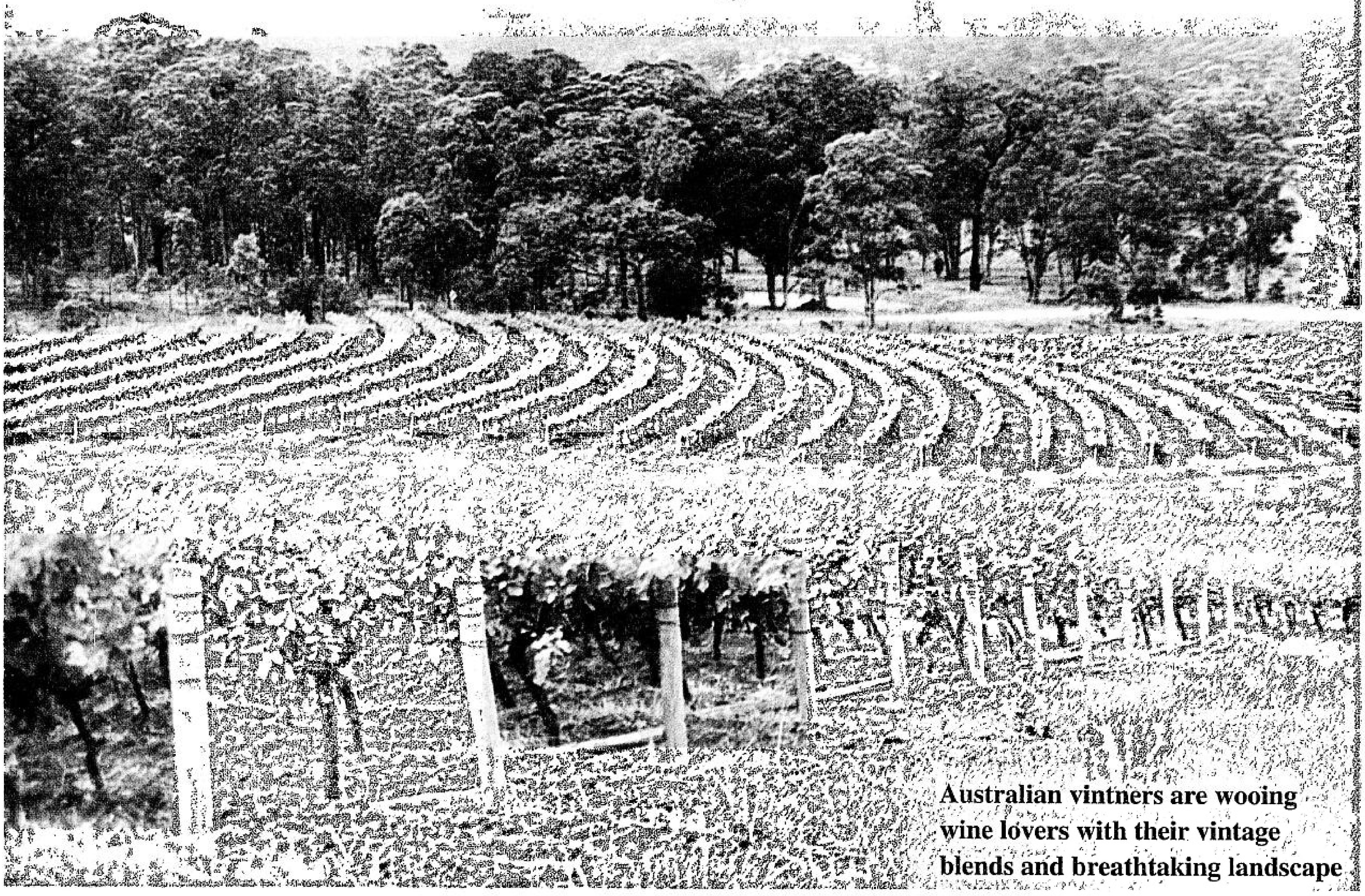
Grape expectations in Hunter Valley



Australian vintners are wooing wine lovers with their vintage blends and breathtaking landscape

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

OF LATE the Australians have been making a lot of noise about their wines. They have good reason to. The word heard through the grapevine is that Australian wine sales quadrupled last year.

There must be something they're doing right. Spending power all over the world has been on a slump since 1998—heck, even earlier in some places—and surely wine lovers, despite their impeccable taste, have not been spared. But then in bad times, alcohol sales are always good; people want to drown their sorrows and many of them are into color-coding their grief. Red or white?

In the valley

Around Hunter Valley Wine Country, which is a two-hour drive northwest of Sydney, the marketing guys are more upbeat than ever. They boast that Aussie wineries can't keep up with the demand from overseas. "They love us! We're very, very popular," says a McGuigan's spokesperson. The euphoria flows from Australian wine export sales that have bloated to $1.2 billion from a mere $43 million two years ago.

Who are the people who thirst for Australia's precious juice? They are the British and the Irish. The Americans are also big buyers. Some wine drinkers in the former USSR. Closer to home, the New Zealanders and their Asian neighbors.

Despite high freight costs—imagine having to ship tons of bottled blends all the way to the UK and the US from the Land Down Under—the Aussies are giving the French vintners a run for their money. In Hunter Valley, the winemakers are optimistic they will soon take the crown from the French. Of course, they are aware that their European counterparts are not taking things sitting down. In the US, for instance, shops carry Chardonnay from France that say "made the Australian style," but to the valley's sales force, that's more a compliment than a threat.

There's something else that Hunter Valley viticulturists have been doing besides making sure they are on the wine shelves of markets all over the world. They have been sprucing up the vineyards with cellar doors, cafés-cum-tasting areas, gardens and golf courses. Should their export numbers go down, they have wine tourism to fall back on. That's the reason the valley has been getting a boost from the Australian Tourism Board, which recently put it on a Visiting Journalists Programs itinerary. The word is definitely out that they are romancing the drinkers.

The ploy is working. Tourists are flocking to the Hunter Valley Wine Country for days of wine and roses, vineyard visits aboard a horse-drawn carriage, early morning balloon rides that give a splendid view of the valley and a dining experience worth the money since vintners have hired high-priced chefs to work the stoves at their winery restaurants.

Throughout the year there are activities to attract wine lovers, collectors and investors and their families. In October, they have "Jazz in the Vines" and in March/April, they have the har-

GRAPE/p.C6

BUY1 TAKE1
BUY1 TAKE1

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-0377, Series of 2001

THE BIGGEST BARGAIN CENTER IN THE SOUTH

RIPENING fruit gives life to the valley.

THE LATE Murray Tyrell (left) with his award-winning team

BRIAN Barry conducts winery tour.

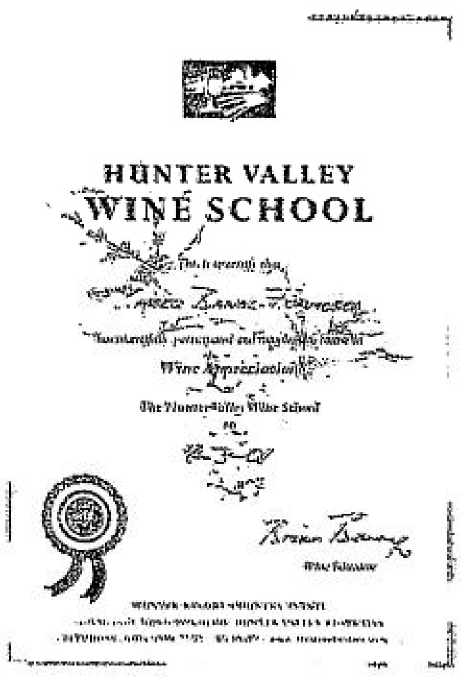
Grape expectations in Hunter Valley

(From page C5)

vest festival. There are speculations that tourism in all wine-growing regions of Australia, where luxury tourism amenities are rising, will overtake wine exports within the next few years. According to the Cessnock Visitor Information Centre, Australian wineries earn $1.5 billion in domestic sales.

Wine tutorial

The best way to begin a Hunter Valley expedition is to attend wine school. Brian Barry runs the Hunter Valley Wine School at the property known as the Hunter Resort Country Estate, which consists of Hermitage Road Cellars, the Hunter Valley Brewing Co. and the Café San Martino and Wine Bar.


HUNTER VALLEY
WINE SCHOOL

DIPLOMA given to attendees at Hunter Wine School

The wine curriculum starts with a vineyard inspection at 9 a.m. and a talk about the valley's history, how grapes are grown, when vines are pruned, when the fruit is harvested—like that.

"It's informative but fun. Otherwise it's no fun for me to do this every day," says Barry. The next stop is the crusher and from there, it's on to the winery to see the vats, tanks, filtration system and other high-tech equipment. Then the "students" move on to the wine-tasting cellars. Back at the school, they are given a structured wine tutorial where "we highlight what people do know about wine." Guests are briefed on tasting etiquette, how to get the most from the visit, what they can or can't do in the wine country—all for $25 per head. They go home with a certificate that they could put up on the wall.

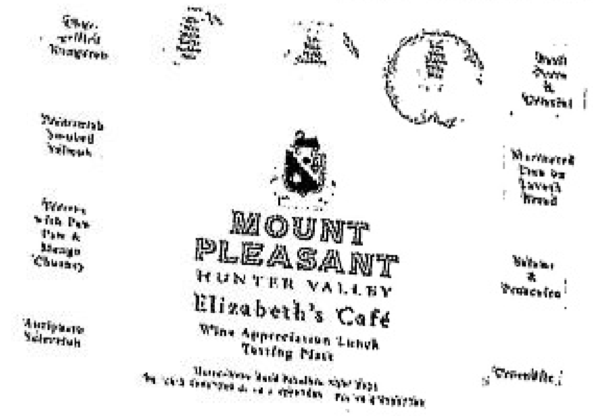
For the wine literate, the wine school may be a waste of time, but it does help the common tourist who doesn't know his Riesling from his Semillon to appreciate what Hunter Valley has to offer.

At every winery, there are barrels filled with aging wine, employees going up and down ladders, hoses going, and the scent of musty wood and fermenting fruit. First-hand sensory learning occurs.

Food experience

Mount Pleasant, which the McWilliams family acquired in 1941, is one of the crowd-pleasers in Hunter Valley. Its Elizabeth's Café allows al fresco dining and presents a breathtaking view of the valley.

"We didn't want to feed them just steak and a salad," says Greg West, its sales and promotion manager. "We wanted to show them a wide range of food from Australia that would be interesting and something they could talk about."


MOUNT
PLEASANT
HUNTER VALLEY
Elizabeth's Café

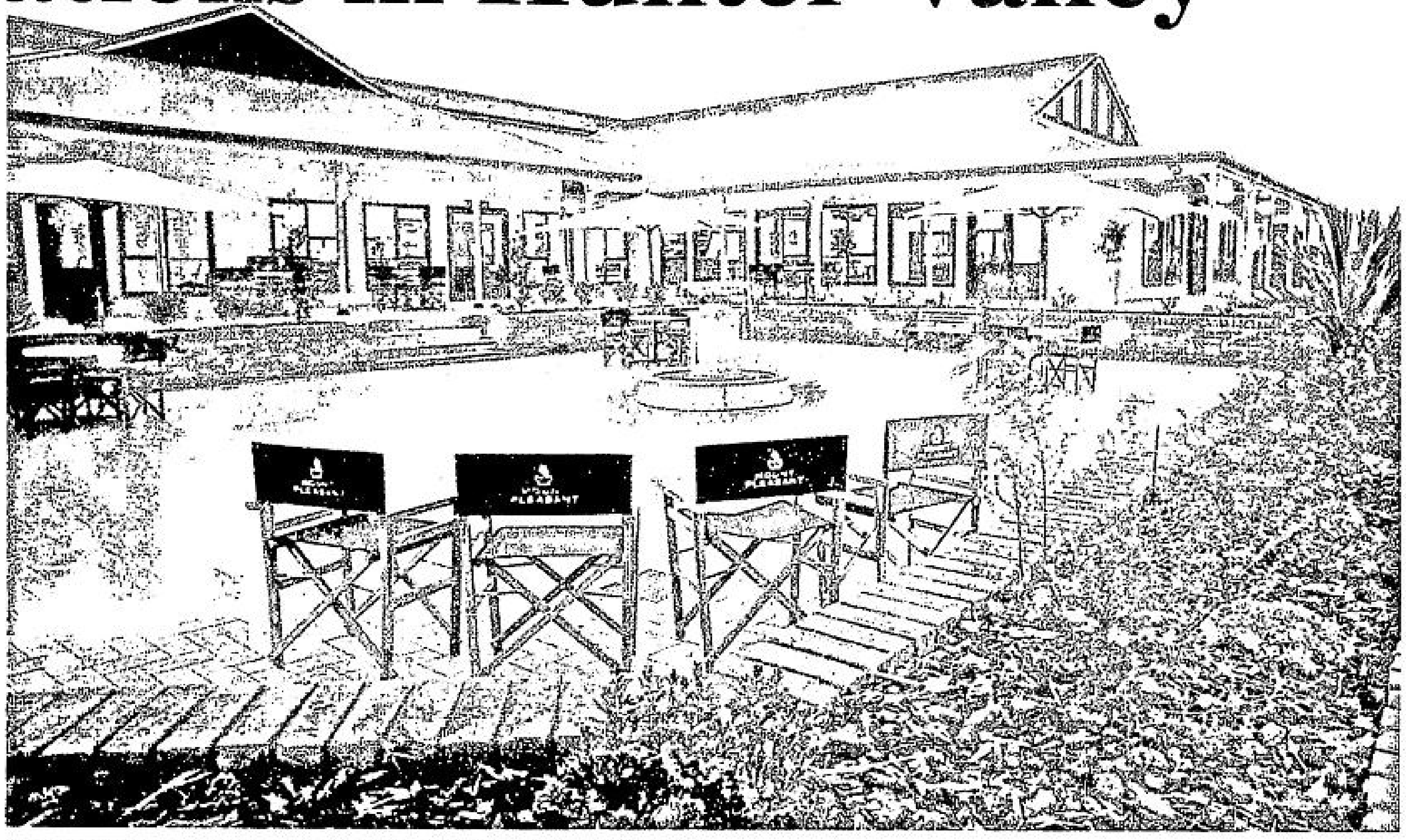
PLACEMAT identifies wine and food served.

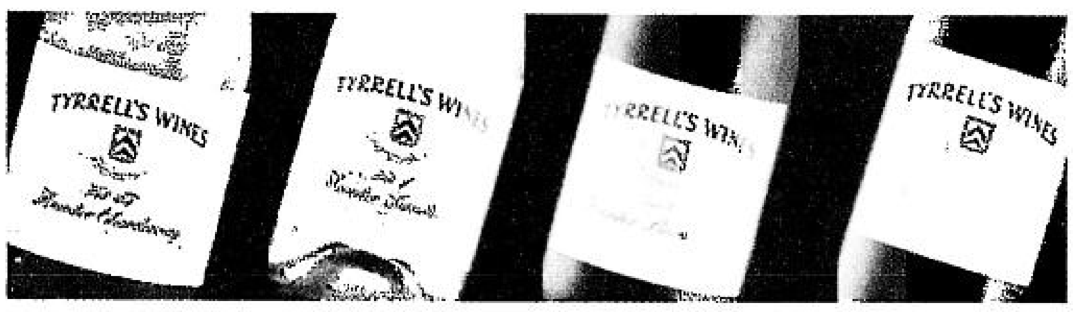
On individual tasting plates, guests are served small items of food, an antipasto selection and samplings of Terrine with PawPaw & Mango Chutney, Tasmanian Smoked Salmon, Char-grilled Kangaroo on a biscuit, Pesto and Grissini, Marinated Emu and Bush Herb Sausage with Avocado, Salami and Prosciuto, and Honey-Smoked Quail served with Pasta, Tomatoes and Capsicum. Other days, crocodile is served and it starts to feel like a real outback meal.

Along with the food, the café serves three glasses of wine, a 1999 Mount Pleasant Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, a 1997 Mount Pleasant Chardonnay and 1996 Mount Pleasant Phillip Shiraz. They don't normally serve the Mount Pleasant Elizabeth, an award-winning un-oaked Hunter Semillon, unless a guest can afford to order it but diners can take solace in the Phillip Shiraz.

Guests don't have to observe protocol on which wine to drink with which meat. "It's really up to you to enjoy, it's like a personal experiment so you can see how the different flavors react with each other," says West.

Adjacent to the restaurant is a gift shop. Photos of how they made wine in the late 1940s are on the walls of the exhibition hall. There are private tasting rooms for both the serious wine lovers and the just-curious.


INVITING Mount Pleasant with its café, tasting rooms and gift shop.



After lunch, guests can take a stroll down the vineyard where some original vines from the late 1800s still stand. "In 40 years, vines start to give less yield so then you have to make decisions," West notes.

Mount Pleasant sources its berries from its Hunter Valley vineyards plus three more vineyards elsewhere in Australia. It's very much a traditional winery, producing prized Sauvignon in the dry white wine and Shiraz in red wine although they also make Chardonnay, Verdelho and Merlot.

"You probably won't get a view like that again for a little while," points out West, referring to the scape of vineyards as far as the eye can see.

In the family

Each Australian state has premium wine-growing regions and in New South Wales, it's the Hunter Valley along with Riverina and Cowra. New South Wales makes 54 percent of Australian wines.

The first vines were planted in Sydney in 1788 but it wasn't until 1858 that Edward Tyrell staked his claim on the 320 acres of prime Hunter Valley land that would later produce the berries for Tyrell's wines.

Today, Tyrell's is, as wines sales manager Richard Earnshaw puts it, "still a family winery in the same family." As of last year, Tyrell Vineyards was producing 9.6 million bottles of wine.

"Individually, we are the biggest here, but there's a lot of wineries in the area owned by multinationals whose interests in Australia make us look very small. But as far as production in this area, we probably produce the most," says Earnshaw.

The original hut built when the Tyrells first got to Hunter Valley still stands. Edward Tyrell, who had 10 children, left the vineyard and winery to two of his sons. Avery Tyrell looked after the vines. Dane Tyrell, who was only 14 then, concentrated on the winemaking.

"He always maintained if you drank a pint of it every day, you'll live to a ripe old age," recounts Earnshaw. "He died when he was 90 so he didn't do too badly, did he?"

Avery's son Murray inherited the business. Regarded as the "mouth of the Hunter," he was a staunch promoter of Hunter Valley tourism and a genius who produced some very good wine. Bruce, a fourth generation Tyrell, has been running the vineyard and the winery since his dad Murray died of cancer last year.

In the room with the barrels, Earnshaw points out that the small barrels have Chardonnay.

The first Chardonnay vines were planted by Tyrell in1968. "The boss (referring to Murray) was the first to make straight Chardonnay in Australia. It's very, very good wine, one of the top Chardonnays today."

Chardonnay juice is fermented in French oak barrels and aged for seven months before bottling. "The fruit from each vineyard is kept separately so we know the quality that comes off each vineyard," says Earnshaw. "We know the top barrels will go to the top wine, Vat 47. That's consistently the best Chardonnay in Australia." The "vat" system was started in 1961.

In 1962, Murray Tyrrell began using the Private Bin label for his best wines, numbering them after the vats in which they matured. The Private Bin wines were only made available to buyers who showed up at the Hunter Valley winery.

Today, over 10 Private Bin wines—ranging from Shirazs, Semillons or Chardonnays "from extremely low yielding original blocks to drink-now varietal wine styles"—are available exclusively for Private Bin members. Liquor retailers do not carry them.

Likewise, wine lovers can buy only a very limited number of the Vat 47 Pinot Chardonnay, Vat 1 Semillon, Vat 9 Shiraz, Vat 6 Pinot Noir and Vat 8 Shiraz from retailers, and only after bottle aging.

"Wine is like food. Everything has to be completely clean," notes Earnshaw. "On Fridays our cleaning staff goes over the place, gives it a once-over. The boss could walk through and he could pick up an odd smell. He had a terrific nose. He could pick up a spillage that they hadn't touched and he'd yell and scream and everyone would jump and run. It's all right he's only the owner."

At Tyrell's, just as at McGuigan's, Mount Pleasant, the Hermitage Road Cellars and 80 other wineries in Hunter Valley, turning fruit into wine is a sacrament. After a day in Hunter Valley, a visitor, whether a novice or not, ends up intoxicated, if not with wine then with the entire experience.

This trip was sponsored by the Australian Tourism Board and Qantas Airlines

McGUIGANS has the largest holding of grapevines in Hunter Valley and one of the most extensive wine lists in the region

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RAFFLE

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		PRIZES
1st Prize	9 winners*	₱100,000 in cash
2nd Prize	9 winners*	₱50,000 in cash
3rd Prize	9 winners*	₱20,000 in cash
Consolation	90 winners (10 winners / area)	₱5,000 in cash

FIRST PRELIMINARY DRAW
Deadline for Entries: Nov. 23, 2001
Raffle Draw: Nov. 30, 2001

SECOND PRELIMINARY DRAW
Deadline for Entries: Dec. 23, 2001
Raffle Draw: Dec. 30, 2001

*One winner per area (Metro Manila, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon 1, South Luzon 2, West Visayas, East Visayas, North Mindanao, and South Mindanao)

GRAND DRAW

1st Prize	4 winners*	Prize Package worth ₱2 million	₱1 Million Bank Account / High School and College Education Plans / Health Insurance / 3-year supply of NIDO / Clothes and Toys
2nd Prize	4 winners*	Prize Package worth ₱1 million	₱500,000 Bank Account / High School and College Education Plans / Health Insurance / 3-year supply of NIDO / Clothes and Toys
3rd Prize	4 winners*	Prize Package worth ₱500,000	₱300,000 Bank Account / High School Education Plan / Health Insurance / 3-year supply of NIDO / Clothes and Toys
Consolation	12 winners (3 winners / area)	₱50,000 in cash	

* One winner each for Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

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- The promotion is from October 15, 2001 to January 27, 2002 only.

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November 30-December 14	December 15
December 15-29	December 30
December 30-31	January 2, 2002

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Give a hand–be a volunteer

Hands On Manila is an affiliate of the City Cares project of New York and Philadelphia which seeks to make volunteerism the definitive 21st century lifestyle choice

LISSA Hilsee

By Pam Pastor

WE live in a world teeming with problems. Poverty, abuse, inequality, crime—the list goes on. And while there may be a desire in every individual's heart to make a difference, one question usually stumps them—how?

Hands On Manila may have the answer.

Twelve years ago, caring souls gave birth to a nonprofit organization in New York. The project, called City Cares, was responsible for recruiting, educating and coordinating a network of volunteers for diverse community projects. To this day, City Cares has 39 affiliates in different cities in the world. There are 30 in the United States, eight in United Kingdom and one in the Philippines—Hands On Manila.

Lissa Hilsee, executive director of Philadelphia Cares, spoke on how Hands On Manila started. "All the City Cares affiliates start with someone who thinks it's a great idea," she said. "They really happen because people want to start them. It happens organically. Someone thinks it's a great idea and makes it happen. Here, Gianna Montinola had heard about it from someone who had been in Arizona and was here visiting. She happened to run into a bunch of people who knew about it. Then, it was Sandy (Prieto) Romualdez who said she'd help Gianna get started. They're just getting started here and they're doing the right things. It's really exciting."

Lissa was in Manila recently for the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Youth Leaders Conference. "This is my first time to be in Asia. I spoke on corporate volunteerism. One of the things that Hands On or Cares organizations—that's what they're called everywhere—do aside from connecting individuals to volunteerism is to help companies get their employees involved."

Perfect

And she really was the perfect person to orient young people about volunteerism. "I was in the investment business for 13 years. While I was doing that, I volunteered with an organization called DC Cares in Washington DC. When I knew I wanted to make a career change, I knew it was a great idea the way this organization coordinate volunteers so I moved to my hometown and started Philadelphia Cares."

She spoke of volunteerism and Philadelphia cares with such passion. "The idea is that volunteers can do a lot to forward social improvements. And that people, given the opportunity, are willing to help if it can be made to fit into their lives in some way," she said. "So I think what Philadelphia Cares does is to connect people with the volunteer opportunities. We work with about 2,000 community agencies in the region all surrounding the city. It's everything from boys and girls clubs to shelters to food banks to parks and schools. We find out from them what they could use volunteers for, what they're trying to accomplish and then publish those opportunities in a calendar that we print. This gets distributed to 10,000 volunteers. Philadelphia Cares has been around for eight years."

During her short stay in Manila, Lissa got to see the difference between volunteerism in the United States and in Manila. "What I was told last night is that foundations generally don't use volunteers to get their work done. In the United States, that's just how it's done. You call them nonprofit organizations."

What stops people from volunteering? "Just that they're not asked. They don't have a way to connect. There's not a hub. That's what Hands On Manila can be. A hub where people can go to find out all the different opportunities that there are."

Enthusiastic

Hands On Manila aims to provide just that. Its founding members—Jose Cuisia, Nicole Fandino, Jose Rene Gayo, Gizela Montinola, Federico Lopez, Gianna Montinola, Ma. Cristina Olbes, Wynn Wynn Ong and Alexandra Romualdez—are very enthusiastic about the project. And they have reason to be.

As of now, Hands On Manila is serving Kabalikat ng Pamilyang Pilipino Foundation, Museo Pambata, The Children's Library-Galleria Branch, Tahanang Walang Hagdan, KYTHE Inc., Tuloy Sa Don Bosco Foundation, Kaisahang Buhay Foundation, In-Touch Foundation, My Zoo, Metropolitan Museum Manila and Habitat for Humanity-Las Piñas chapter, among others.

"It is perfect!" Lissa said. "That's the exact sentence that was said to us when we first started. A lot of people want to help, but they don't know how, it's such a great idea. Even just the outpouring that they've received—there was just a little article about it in the paper a month ago and people just called and called and called."

GIVE/ p.D3

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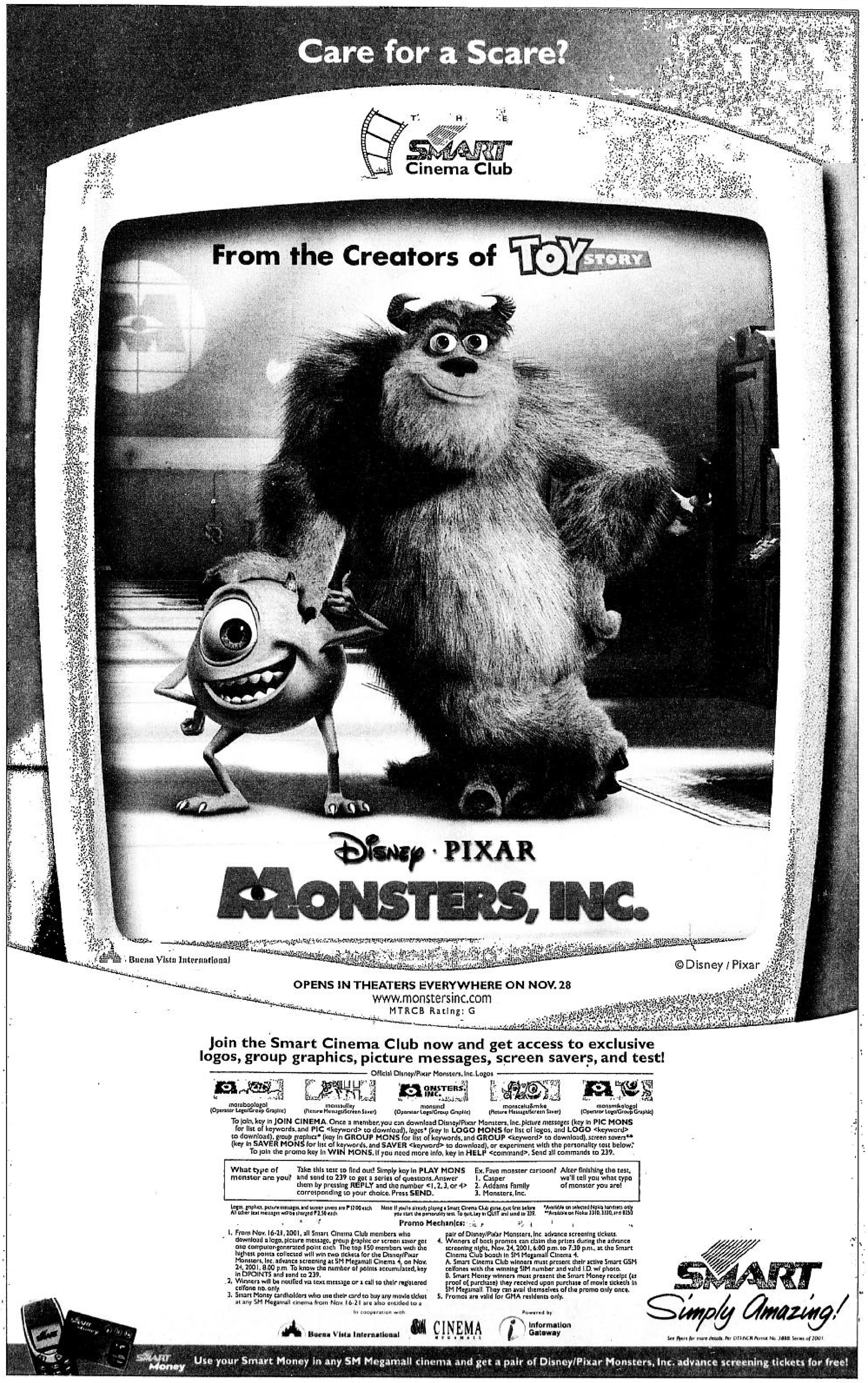

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To join, key in JOIN CINEMA. Once a member, you can download Disney/Pixar Monsters, Inc. picture messages (key in PIC MONS for list of keywords, and PIC <keyword> to download), logos* (key in LOGO MONS for list of logos, and LOGO <keyword> to download), group graphics* (key in GROUP MONS for list of keywords, and GROUP <keyword> to download), screen savers** (key in SAVER MONS for list of keywords, and SAVER <keyword> to download), or experiment with the personality test below. To join the promo key in WIN MONS. If you need more info, key in HELP <command>. Send all commands to 239.

What type of monster are you? Take this test to find out! Simply key in PLAY MONS and send to 239 to get a series of questions. Answer them by pressing REPLY and the number <1, 2, 3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND. Ex. Fave monster cartoon? 1. Casper 2. Addams Family 3. Monsters, Inc. After finishing the test, we'll tell you what type of monster you are!

Logos, graphics, picture messages, and screen savers are P12.00 each. All other text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you start the personality test. To quit, key in QUIT and send to 239. *Available on selected Nokia handsets only **Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250

Promo Mechanics:
1. From Nov. 16-21, 2001, all Smart Cinema Club members who download a logo, picture message, group graphic or screen saver get one computer-generated point each. The top 150 members with the highest points collected will win two tickets for the Disney/Pixar Monsters, Inc. advance screening at SM Megamall Cinema 4, on Nov. 24, 2001, 8:00 p.m. To know the number of points accumulated, key in DPOINTS and send to 239.
2. Winners will be notified via text message or a call to their registered celfone no. only.
3. Smart Money cardholders who use their card to buy any movie ticket at any SM Megamall cinema from Nov. 16-21 are also entitled to a pair of Disney/Pixar Monsters, Inc. advance screening tickets.
4. Winners of both promos can claim the prizes during the advance screening night, Nov. 24, 2001, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Smart Cinema Club booth in SM Megamall Cinema 4.
A. Smart Cinema Club winners must present their active Smart GSM celfones with the winning SIM number and valid I.D. w/ photo.
B. Smart Money winners must present the Smart Money receipt (as proof of purchase) they received upon purchase of movie ticket/s in SM Megamall. They can avail themselves of the promo only once.
5. Promos are valid for GMA residents only.

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SMART Money Use your Smart Money in any SM Megamall cinema and get a pair of Disney/Pixar Monsters, Inc. advance screening tickets for free!

Manila welcomes young wine

LE Club, the French Business Association of the Philippines, welcomes the arrival of Le Beaujolais Nouveau 2001 on Nov. 22 at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City.

The first output from each harvest, Beaujolais Nouveau is released exactly on the third Thursday of November each year. Together with a wide selection of French delicacies, the 2-month-old fruity wine will be showcased at the NBC Tent to the rhythm of the music provided by Spirit of '67.

The raffle of two Manila/Paris/Manila tickets courtesy of Air France, pearl jewelry from Jewelmer, Manila/Boracay/Manila tickets for two with two nights at the Red Coconut Beach Resort, Manila/Tacloban/Manila tickets for two with two nights at Marabut Marine Park Beach Resort will highlight the affair.

Call Le Club at 813-9005. Tickets are available at P1,600 per person.

LAWYER Felipe Gozon, GMA Network's president and CEO, unwinds with wife Tessie (at left) and granddaughter Anya, along with Mayose Bautista and Niña Muñoz at the Noel Christmas Bazaar.

National Book Week set at National Library

GOINGS-ON

THE 2001 National Book Week Committee, headed by Mona Lisa P. Liguiab, will hold the 67th National Book Week celebration Nov. 23-30 at the National Library Auditorium. The event is co-sponsored by the Philippine Librarians Association Inc. and The National Library. This year's theme is "Books + Knowledge = Brighter Future." On Nov. 30, a luncheon will be held at The Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita, Manila, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

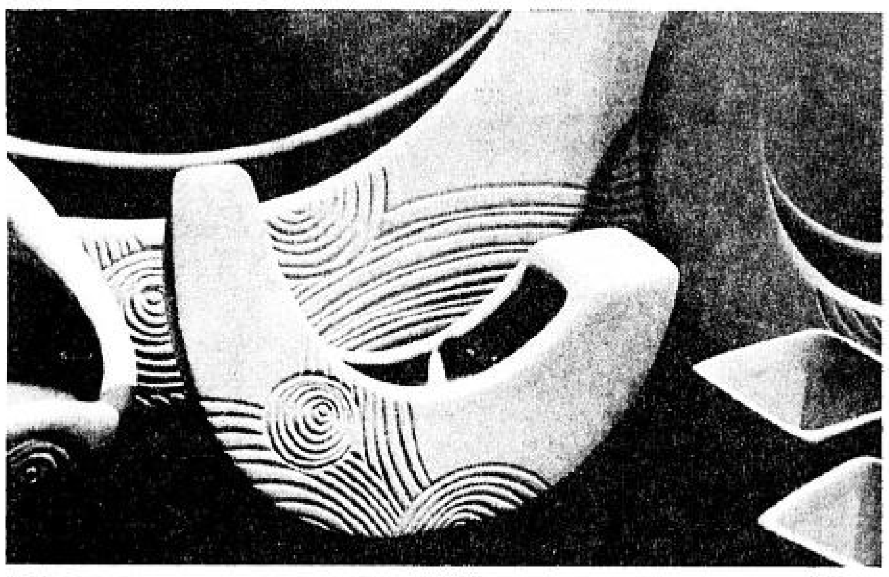
CLASS REUNION. Classes '72 and '73 of Francisco Balagtas Academy in Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan will hold a reunion at the Cool Water Resort in Lalakhan, Sta. Maria, Bulacan on Nov. 30. Call Edgardo Pagsanhan at (0919) 609-1673, SPO4 Delfin Nicolas at (0919) 564-2593 or Rita Sta. Rita (0918) 910-7125.

CHRISTMAS DISCOUNT. Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. takes the edge off paying home and property account balances and arrears with special discounts. Under the Sta. Lucia Christmas discount scheme, homeowners are given the opportunity to settle their accounts on more affordable terms. Discounts will be awarded to homeowners who will avail of the promo, which runs until Dec. 15. The discounts are applicable only to properties solely developed by Sta. Lucia Realty. For accounts with notice of cancellations, forfeitures or lapsed contract, SLR is offering 1-2 years restructuring scheme of the balance inclusive of interest and penalties. Call 722-5811 to -15.

BAZAAR. Karl Edward Int'l. presents "Shop @ the Fort" bazaar Nov. 17-18 at the NBC Tent. The bazaar offers men's, ladies and children's garments, toys, children's book, novelty items, fashion accessories, home decor. The bazaar also sells export quality holiday trimmings. Karl Edward Int'l. will also hold "Shoppers Discount Bazaar" Nov. 24-25 at Dusit Hotel and "Import, Export Bazaar" Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2 also at Dusit. For the convenience of holiday shoppers, "Shop @ the Fort" will be open at the NBC Tent on all weekends of December, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. The bazaar accepts local and international credit cards.

SALE. Excellent bargains are offered at Surf World until today. Boardshorts, swimwear, T-shirts, pants, shoes and accessories from Quiksilver, Roxy, Rip Curl, Stussy, Volcom and Reef are available at P200 and up. Visit Surf World at the 2/L Festival Supermall, Alabang.

PRODUCT SHOWCASE. "Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" features the creations of the members of the Association of Negros Producers. Ongoing until today at the Manila Polo Club, the bazaar showcases furniture, home décor, porcelain accessories, leather goods and delicacies from the Visayas.



PORCELAIN ware by Sweet Greens Company

Christmas expo raises funds for museum-library

LAST October, the Noel Christmas bazaar took place at the Manila Polo Club. It was as exciting as past bazaars that attract holiday shoppers.

"Noel Christmas bazaars prove to be a great fulfillment and a worthwhile cause for its beneficiary, Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation. We believe that even with the simultaneous bazaars in the metropolis, Noel in Manila Polo Club generated the largest number of shoppers for our hundreds of participating entrepreneurs," says Mayose G. Bautista, project director.

There were hundreds of merchandise to select from. Cathy Castañeda, Eliza Bautista and Pinky Marquez presented their distinctive collection of candles, soaps and crafts. Nui Design Clothing proved to be a crowd favorite, too.

At Kiss the Fish, Ana Roces took time out from shopping while lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, GMA Network president and CEO, unwinded with wife Tessie. Also in the area was metro shopping icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes, who looked at the hundreds of product lines. Actress Carmina Villaroel and her sisters were also seen enjoying a weekend of pleasurable shopping.

The next Noel Christmas bazaar will be held at the Hall C of the World Trade Center on Dec. 1-2. Called "Christmas@2001 Shop Expo," the event will showcase over 500 products. A fashion show by Ateneo's Association of Communications Technologies and Management Economics, entertainment numbers by Pinky Marquez and GMA Network's artists, art and hobby center by Artpack, painting gallery by Inday Cadapan, raffle draws by Cali and participating entrepreneurs and the Christmas Festival by the Christmas Décor Association of the Philippines will also be featured.

This two-day weekend is dedicated to the 116 martyrs and heroes who were proclaimed by the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation. The foundation aims to complete a museum-library at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue.

This shopping and fund-raising affair is sponsored by GMA Network and Cali, Grepalife Assurance Corp., Pacific Plans, Pearl of the Pacific, Philscape, INQ-7, Nextel Communications and the INQUIRER. Call Cut Unlimited at 371-7405, 620-4328 or 373-3601 local 216 or e-mail eventsonly @edsamail.com.ph.

CARMINA Villaroel and sisters enjoy a weekend of shopping.

NOTHING fishy with the extraordinary wares of Kiss the Fish.

ANGEL Jacob fulfilling her holiday shopping.

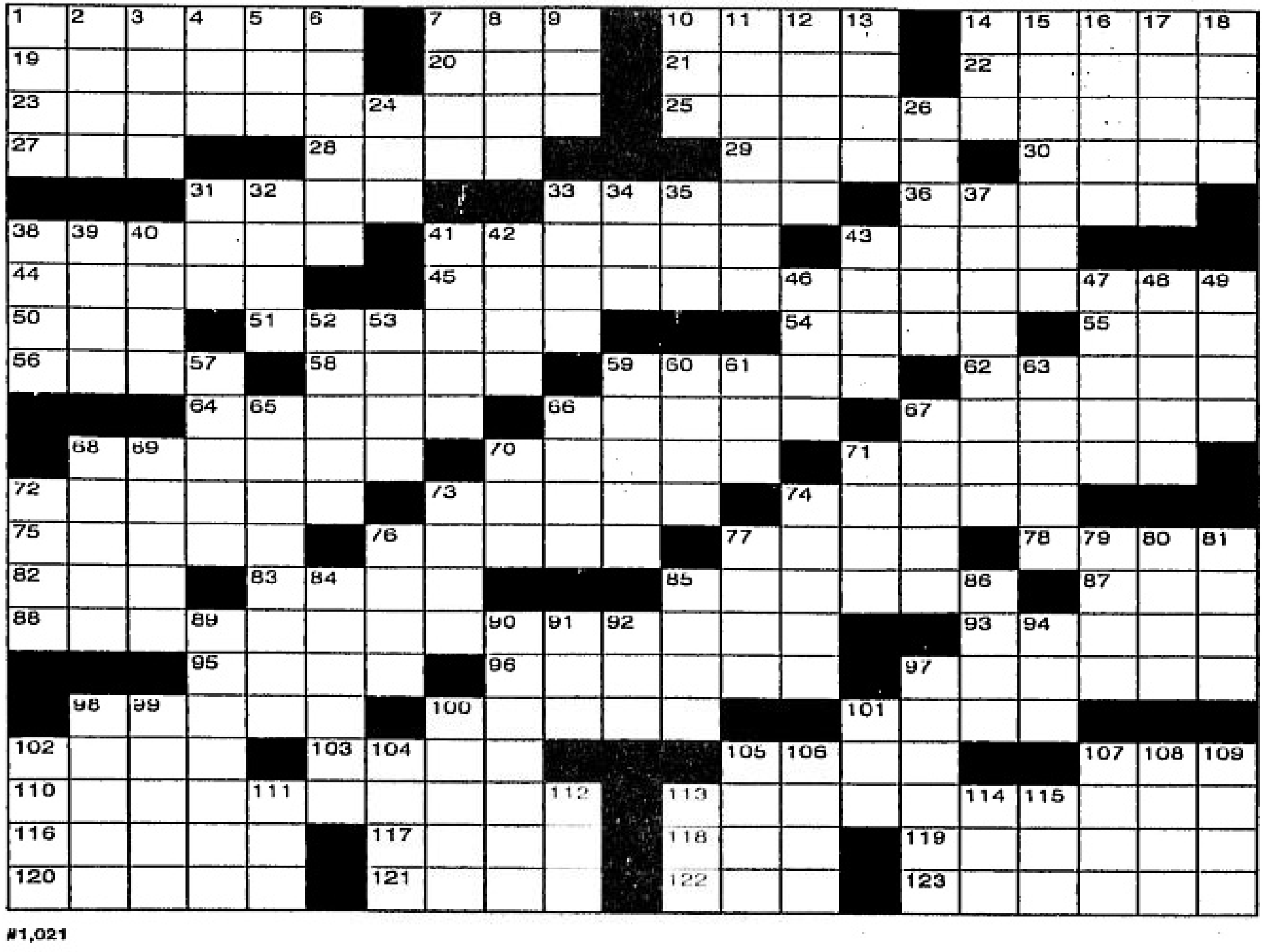
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

DELAYED REACTION

ACROSS
1 Writer Susan
7 AAA handout
10 Explorer Tasman
14 Checker move?
19 Carry too far
20 Winter hazard
21 Creme — creme
22 Kunta — ("Roots" character)
23 Start of a remark by Steven Wright
25 Patrician
27 Canadian prov.
28 Victim
29 Wool gatherer?
30 Roll-call reply
31 Level
33 Entire range
36 Put up with
38 Thick stick
41 Put aside
43 Blind part
44 See 11 Down
45 Part 2 of remark
50 It may get flipped
51 Connecticut town
54 Summit
55 Live and breathe
56 Mighty mite
58 Sausage segment
59 Long Island resort
62 Tel Aviv teacher
64 Out of the way
66 Beak
67 One way to park
68 Tranquil
70 Part 3 of remark
71 Kukla or Lamb Chop
72 Ill will
73 Cherbourg chapeau
74 Glee
75 "— a Symphony" ('65 song)
76 Submarine finder
77 Competitors
78 Facilitate a felony
82 — Tin Tin
83 Paradise
85 Merchant
87 Cal. page
88 Part 4 of remark
93 Over
95 Jai —
96 Sounds the tocsin
97 Ullman or Gold
98 Goatish gamboler
100 Bar hop?
101 Dr. Scholl's concern
102 Source
103 Cardinal
105 — Flynn Boyle
107 Mil. training ctr.
110 African capital
113 End of remark
116 Jazzman Chick
117 Forehead
118 Organ of equilibrium
119 Steak or lobster
120 Abrasive substance
121 "— forgive those . . ."
122 Be too interested?
123 Arid area

DOWN
1 Manhattan district
2 Hot spot?
3 Frog's kin
4 Singing syllable
5 They may be personal
6 Mahalia's music
7 Pixie and Dixie
8 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
9 Princess bruiser
10 Orthodontists' org.
11 With 44 Across, salad veggie
12 "Silas Marner" author
13 Endure
14 Ring stat
15 Kansas city
16 "The Lady —" ('79 film)
17 Gawk
18 French bean?
24 Fancy vase
26 A Muse
31 Inflatable item?
32 Sell
33 Continue
34 Circle section
35 "Mal de —"
37 Impoverished
38 Fountain order
39 Component
40 Carthaginian queen
41 Book part
42 Travel with Spock?
43 — aerobics
46 Rotisserie part
47 Defer
48 NASA lap
49 Equine accessory
52 Skirt shape
53 Coney Island attraction
57 Ballet's Tallchief
59 Actress Stevens
60 Santa's problem
61 Destiny
63 Dominant, as a dog
65 On the sly
66 Doris Day refrain
67 Handbag
68 Master, in Madras
69 '85 John Malkovich movie
70 Barnyard belle
71 Mottled
72 Sorvino or Nair
73 — fide
74 Complains
76 Big rig
77 Lute feature
79 Coll. hotshot
80 Roof part
81 Playing card
84 TV's "— & Greg"
85 "Comin' — the Rye"
86 Half-baked?
89 More squalid
90 Heavenly sight
91 Alphabet sequence
92 Network
94 Try for a hit
97 Provoked
98 Biblical city
99 Pianist Watts
100 Fishermen, frequently
101 Auber's "— Diavolo"
102 Confront
104 Swedish rockers
105 Last name in limericks
106 Crooked
107 Grimm creature
108 "Moonstruck" star
109 Dele a dele
111 Utter
112 Blow away
113 Drill sergeant's shout
114 Compass pt.
115 "— Not Unusual" ('65 hit)



#1,021

ANSWER ON PAGE H2

Mall brings shopping leisure and entertainment to Davao

SM City Davao, SM Prime Holdings' 12th SM Supermall, is now open to the public. SM's first mall in Mindanao is located at Ecoland, Barangay Matina, Quimpo Boulevard, Davao City.

The 76,000-sq-m three-level mall brings SM's shopping leisure and entertainment excitement to Davao. Considered the largest city in the world in terms of land area, Davao City is a melting pot and business center. It is the hub of small and medium industries, education, government and media centers, as well as residential subdivisions for growing families.

SM City Davao also serves customers from Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur and the Compostela Valley as well as the nearby provinces of Cotabato, Bukidnon, Agusan and Butuan. The mall has about 200 stores, restaurants, leisure and entertainment areas.

The SM Department Store offers quality merchandise at reasonable prices, one-stop shopping convenience and service that have made it part of the lives of many Filipinos. Other SM mall mainstays include the SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center, Surplus Shop, Health and Beauty, Family Drugstore, Toy Kingdom and Ace Hardware.

Completing the shopping excitement are fashion boutiques, shoe stores, bookstores, jewelry stores, home furnishing stores and specialty shops.

Dining options at the mall include the SM Food Court, which features Jollibee, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, KFC and Pancake House.

Mallgoers can look forward to family leisure fun at the SM Cinema, which has six theaters and amusement areas like Worlds of Fun.

To serve today's generation of cyber customers, SM City Davao also features computer and telecom stores. There are also service centers like airline and shipping booking counters.

Located on a 13-hectare site, SM City Davao has 1,583 open parking slots for its customers.

SM City Davao's Architectural Design Consultant is Design International, a foreign-based group with Line Arc Design as local architects. Webcor is its general contractor and GHT Services is its prefect manager.

Give a hand–be a volunteer

(From page D1)

What Hands On Manila wants people to realize is that everyone can volunteer. There's no age limit, no special skills required. If you're enthusiastic, committed, flexible, patient, aware and caring, you can volunteer.

Orientations are regularly held so potential volunteers may learn more about the foundation. "You fill out a form and say what things you're interested in," Lissa said. "As a volunteer you get a calendar and you can look at it and say, 'Oh I can do this this day.' It goes on to tell you the details, including the project leaders. They are volunteers who take on leadership level. There's a different individual for each project. All you have to do is call and say you want to help."

"There's something for everyone, that's the big thing. If you aren't comfortable with reading a book for a child, you can build a wall or plant a garden or tutor an adult. That's the idea of the calendar. It's there so you can find something you like. And you can try it one time and if you don't like it you can do something else. You don't have to commit your time. It's not like being a big sister or a big brother where you'd feel like you let the kid down if you couldn't show up every week. You can do whatever fits your schedule."

In other words, there's no reason not to volunteer.

Children

What is the cause closest to Lissa's heart? "Children. We do a project in Philadelphia called the Discovery Project. We go every Saturday morning to an elementary school and have learning projects. We give them projects that make learning fun, like using M&Ms to learn Math and they can eat them after."

After years of volunteerism, Lissa has a lot of unforgettable experiences. "In Philadelphia, we have a lot of graffiti and trash in the outlying areas and we've been on a campaign to clean that up. What was wonderful was that the neighbors came out to help. At first they were skeptical because they've been wanting support for so long but they haven't seen it come. Once they saw volunteers coming and cleaning up, they went out and pitched in. They want to keep it nice. That's been really exciting."

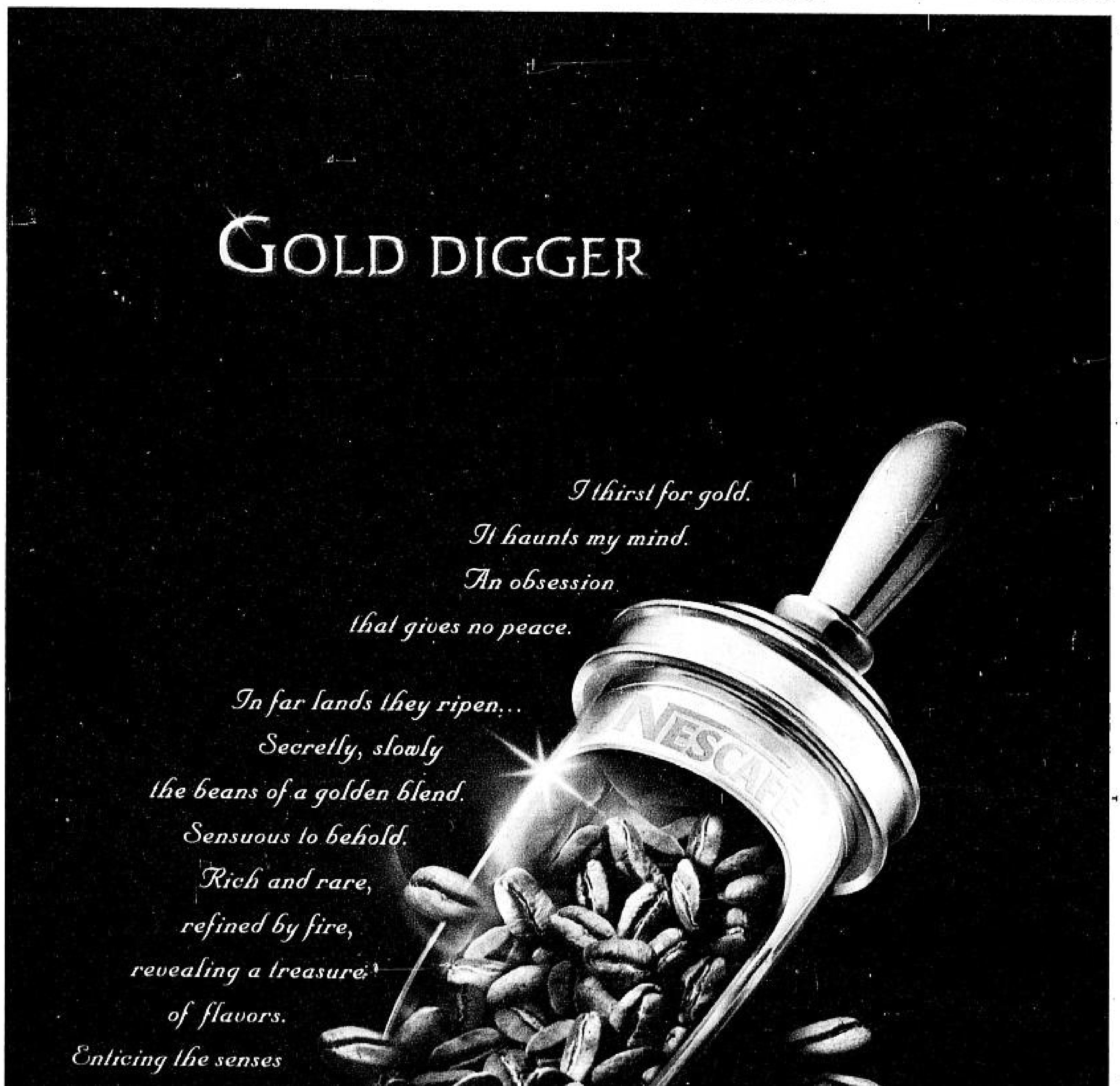
She also remembered how her organization sprung to action during the WTC attacks. "We organized two big drives. We organized a drive that sent seven truckloads of stuff to New York. Gatorade, shirts, socks—the whole list we got from New York that we needed. We did a teddy bear drive for the children—and we collected 20,000 teddy bears for the children. What happened during Sept. 11 helped people get their priorities right, their perspective on life. I think some of the cynicism that built up got washed away. I hope that we can capture that spirit and retain it."

Lissa spoke of the fulfillment that volunteerism brings. "I really believe that people have an innate need to give to other people. I think we knew that before Sept. 11 and we really know it now. Never in my life that I've seen people just yearning to give, just needing to do something to help and it just underscored the fact for me that it's just a part of us as human beings. We need to give to other people. Sometimes we lose touch with that. There's so much going on in our lives that it gets covered over somehow. But if they volunteer, people say they felt so great. They'd say, 'I think I got more out of that than the people I was working for.'"

Volunteerism may play a major role in shaping our society and making it a more livable place. Lissa spoke with conviction. "Since coming here it's becoming clear to me how important volunteer action is to creating civil society. People are connecting, corruption diminishes because people are aware and are able to hold government accountable, to hold businesses accountable and that's really what it's about. Individuals being informed enough to be able to have a voice and these voices speaking out about the rights and wrongs in society. That's the real power of volunteerism, not just the actual work that gets done but really creating people who are empowered so they can make a difference."

"If you've got a little time on your hands, give a little of it to others."

Hands On Manila's office is at Unit 10 Lower Penthouse, Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo corner Dela Rosa Streets, Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 843-7044 or e-mail handsonmla@pinoymail.com



GOLD DIGGER

I thirst for gold.
It haunts my mind.
An obsession
that gives no peace.

In far lands they ripen...
Secretly, slowly
the beans of a golden blend.
Sensuous to behold.
Rich and rare,
refined by fire,
revealing a treasure
of flavors.
Enticing the senses
with a longing untold.

I can find no rest
until these beans,
I hold.

Pure Inspiration.
NESCAFÉ GOLD

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lbpuppy lbelle

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Ex. PIC lbpuppy

SCREEN SAVERS**:
To get the list of screensavers, key in SAVER LB and send to 239
To download, key in SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
Ex. SAVER lbelle

GAMES

ARE YOU LEGALLY CORRECT?
Do you know the law?
Key in PLAY LB and see if you have good judgement.
Ex: What is "en banc"?
1. A French bank
2. "All judges are present"
3. Clue?

ELLE KNOWS
Time for some mental exercises!
Key in PLAY LB2.
Ex: How many birthdays does the average man have?
1. 1
2. 75
3. 80

BLONDE TRIVIA
Test your blonde know-how! Simply key in PLAY LB4.
Ex: Who plays Phoebe on Friends?
1. Duh! Lisa Kudrow
2. Jennifer Aniston
3. Courtney Cox

BLONDE SCALE
How blonde are you? Take this quiz to see where you fall on the scale.
Key in PLAY LB3.
Ex: Which magazine do you subscribe to?
1. Cosmo, Glamour and Elle
2. People
3. Time

To answer, simply press REPLY and key in the number (1, 2, 3, or 4) corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.
Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first. To quit: Key in QUIT and send to 239.

RINGTONE
Still can't get enough of Legally Blonde?
Key in TONE LB to download *"A Perfect Day"* by Hoku from the Legally Blonde soundtrack.

Only registered Smart Cinema Club Members may avail of the exclusive movie graphics and games. To join, key in JOIN CINEMA and send to 239. You will receive instructions for the next registration steps.

To receive more information on different commands, key in HELP <command> and send to 239.

Picture messages, screen savers, logos, and group graphics are ₱12.00 each. All other text messages sent are ₱2.50 each.

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SMART
Simply Amazing!

PREPARE the materials, such as lace cloth, glitter, adhesive paper and a pair of scissors.

1

2

CUT ¼ size of the adhesive paper. Set aside.

Cards done out of love

With a dash of creativity you can personalize your season's greetings without using the computer

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

ALL of us need to express ourselves creatively in some way. So how would you like to make your own personalized greeting cards that will touch the hearts of your loved ones? We are not speaking of computer-generated designs. This is much more personalized. It is done out of love!

CRAFT

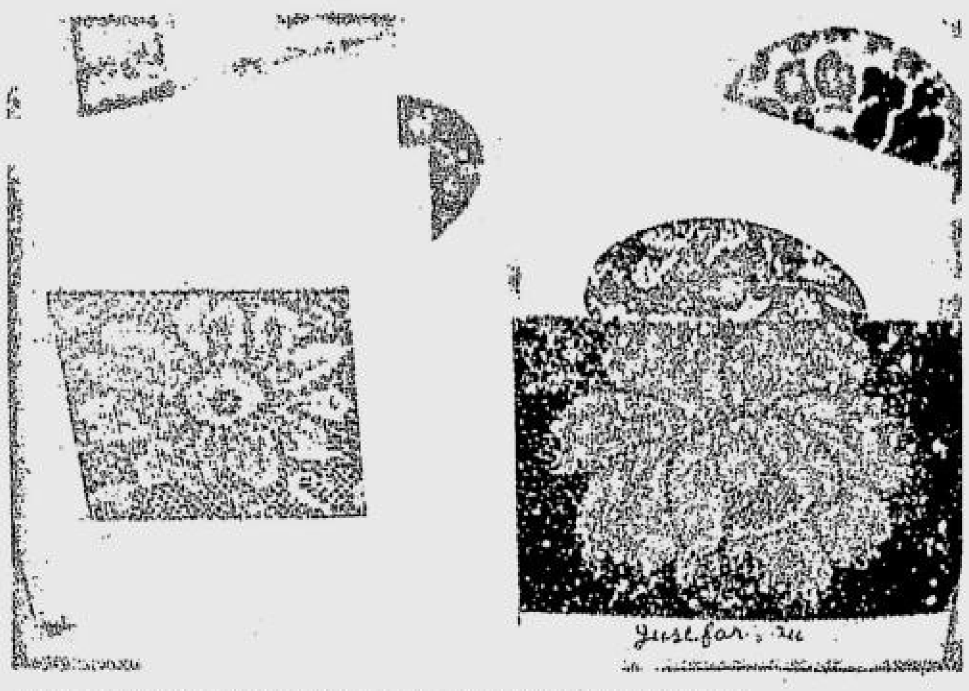
Craft World's Zeny Perez guides us in making attractive cards that will not strain your budget, but the effect is dramatic. "It's so easy to make. You will only need a lace cloth and glitter in different vibrant colors to create homemade greeting cards," she says.

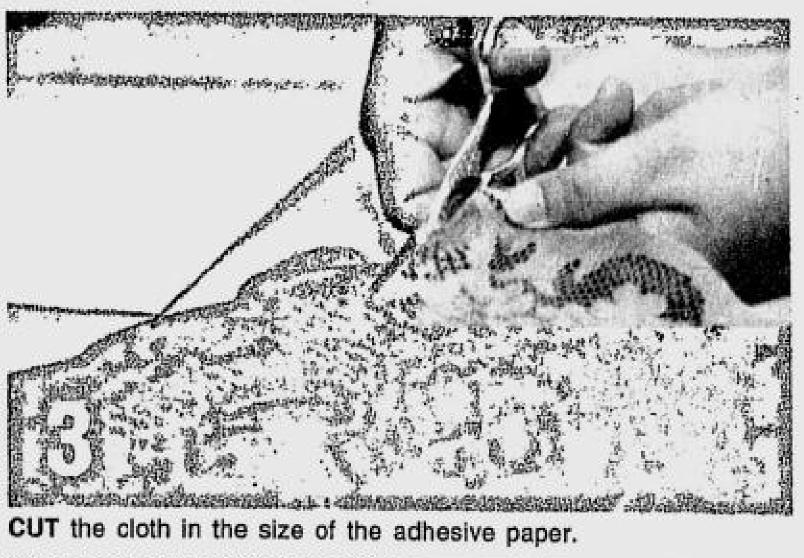
Zeny, who has learned this craft from attending various arts and crafts conventions abroad, says the lace cloth with floral designs will serve as your pattern for the card. You can get lace from your favorite *mananahi* or purchase it at Quiapo or Divisoria for P20 per yard. But, take note, you will only need a small portion of it.

The super-fine glitters will serve as your "personalized paint" that will produce that fantastic effect. You will also need adhesive paper available in office supply stores, a ready-made card on which the pattern will be placed and a pair of scissors. As for the ready-made card, you can also make your own by simply cutting white paper or cardboard to your desired size; fold it in half and cut a hole (a circle or a square) on one of its flaps. Kids will also be delighted to make their own cards with a little help from adults.

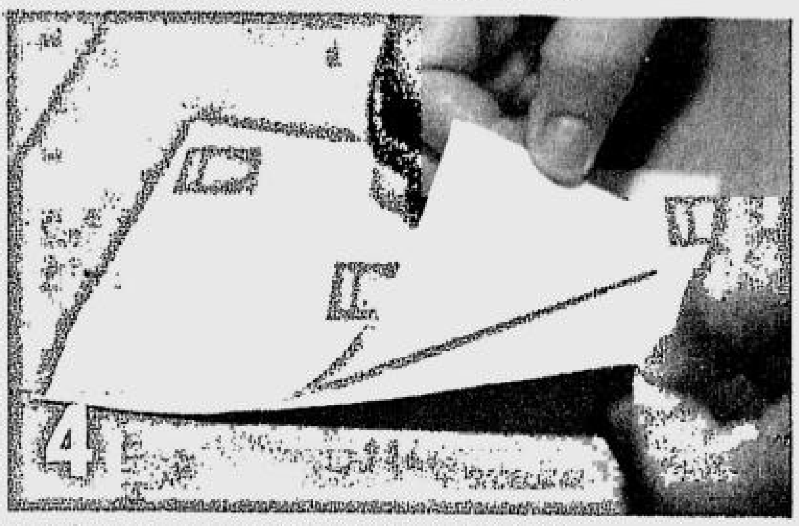
"The great thing about making your own cards is that you can choose from a wide variety of designs and sizes you like," says Zeny. Craft World is at 114 Park Avenue, Robinsons Galleria.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

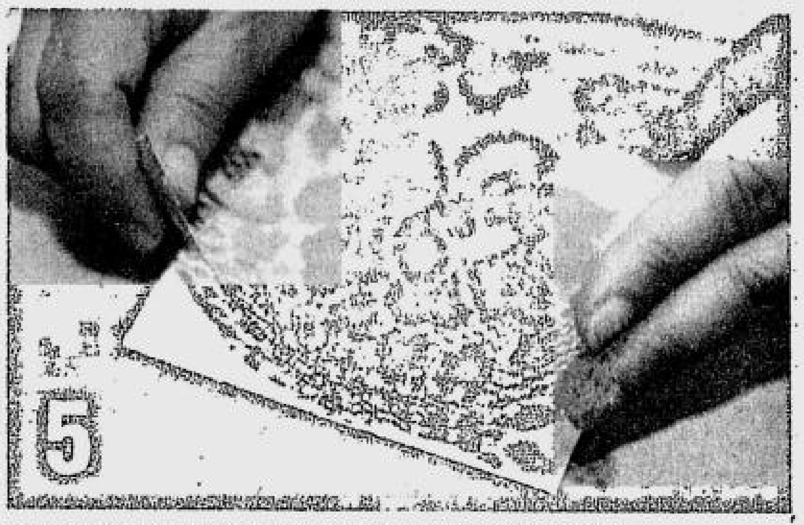

DAINTY and homemade greeting cards with a personal touch



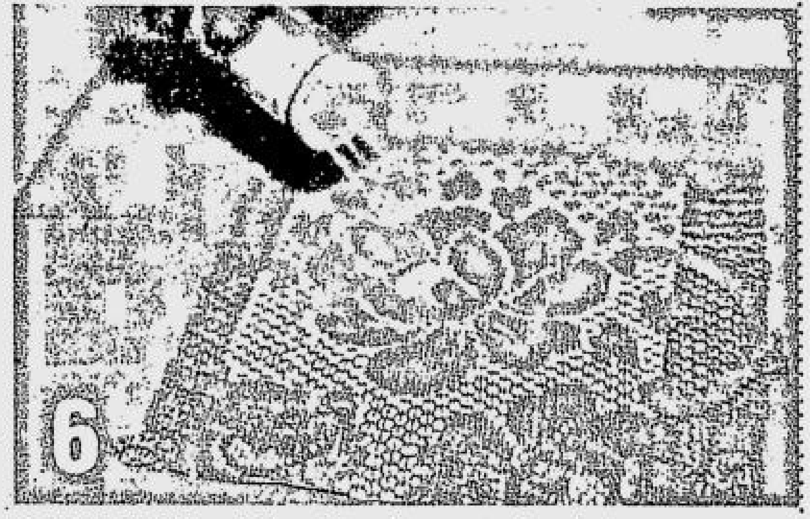
CUT the cloth in the size of the adhesive paper.



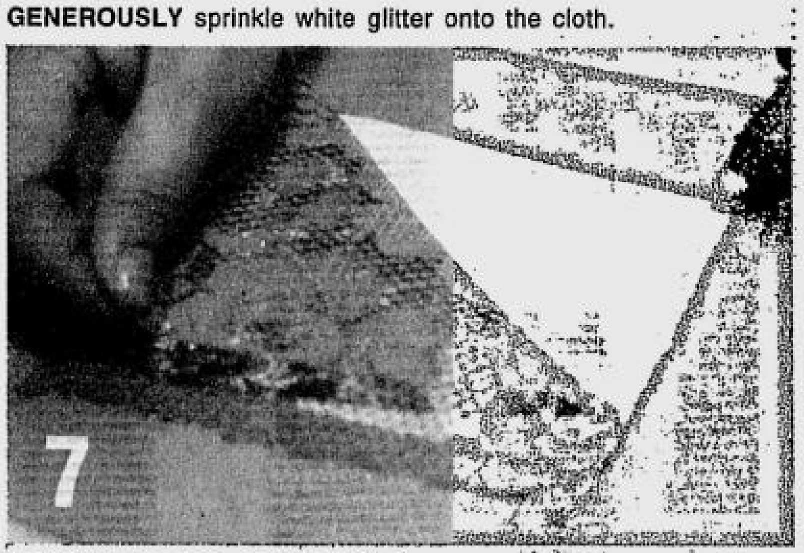
REMOVE the sticker from the adhesive paper.



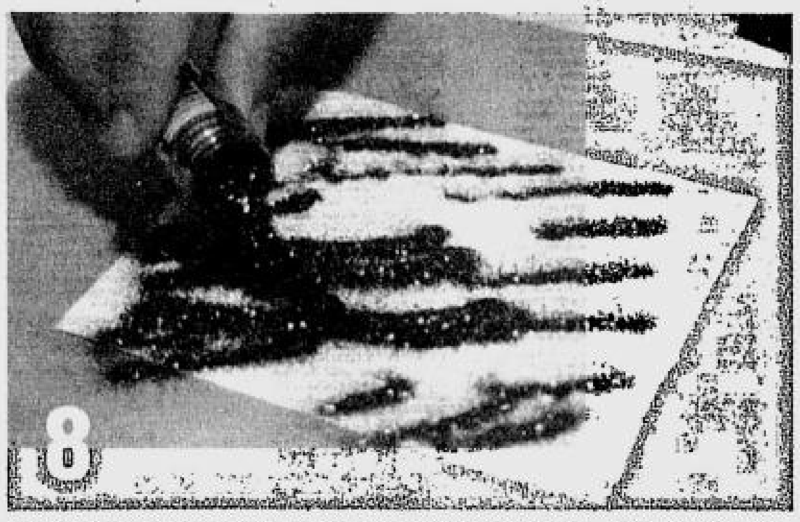
PLACE the lace cloth on top of the adhesive paper.



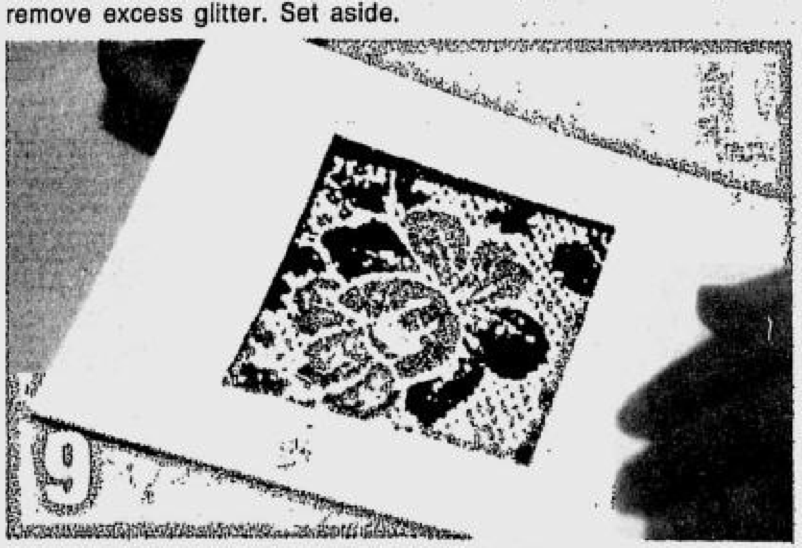
GENEROUSLY sprinkle white glitter onto the cloth.



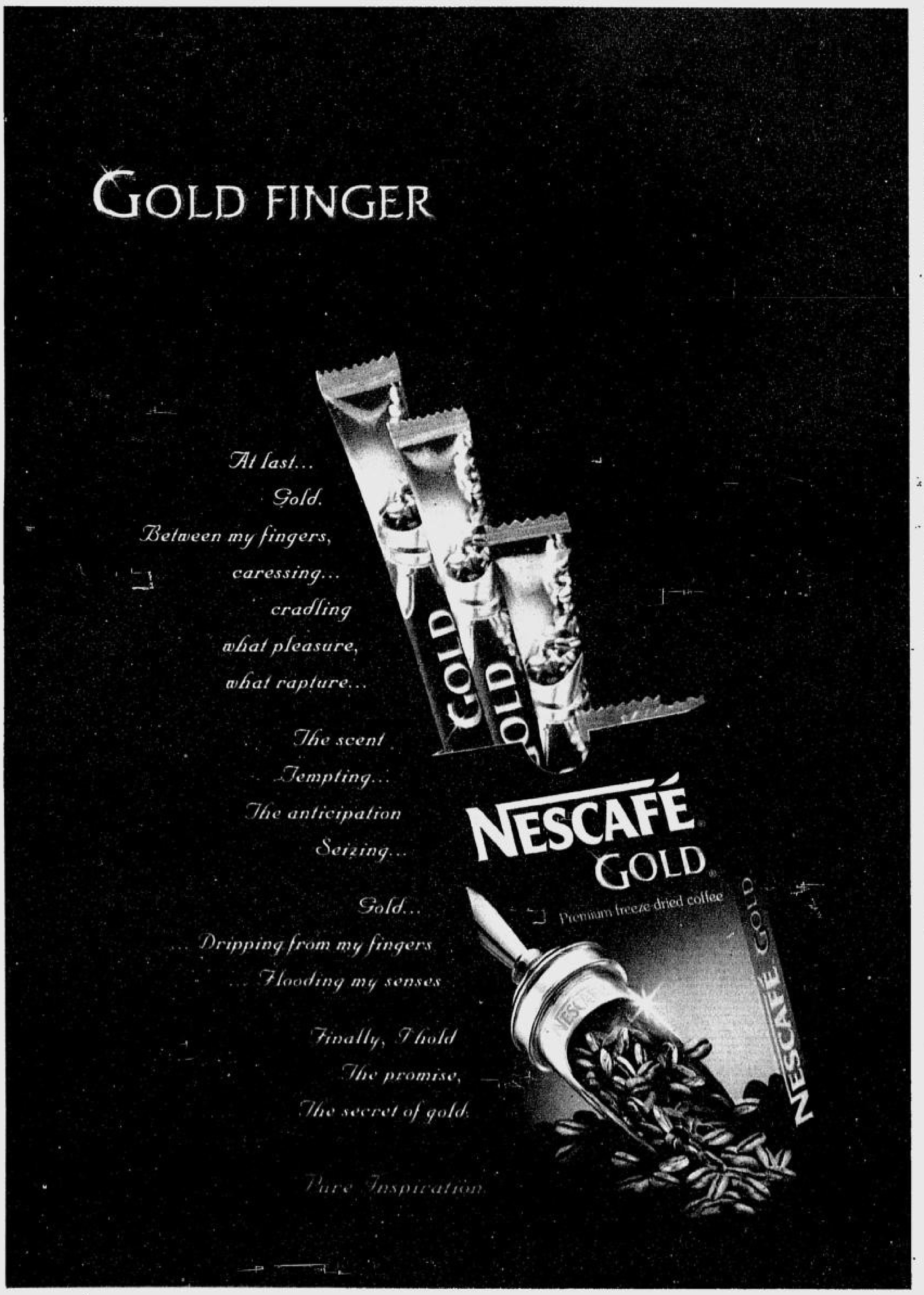
REMOVE the lace cloth.



SPRINKLE green glitter onto the adhesive paper. After doing this, remove excess glitter. Set aside.



PLACE the pattern with glitter at the back of the ready-made card.


GOLD FINGER

At last...
Gold.
Between my fingers,
caressing...
cradling
what pleasure,
what rapture...

The scent
Tempting...
The anticipation
Seizing...

Gold...
... Dripping from my fingers
... Flooding my senses

Finally, I hold
The promise,
The secret of gold.

Pure Inspiration.

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Premium freeze-dried coffee

ANDREW Mathews

Conference on parent-child relationships

EVENTS 20/20, with the Westin Philippine Plaza, presents Andrew Mathews, author and illustrator of "Being Happy," "Get Faxed" and "Follow Your Heart" in a conference on Nov. 28 at On Stage Greenbelt. The event starts at 1 p.m.

Mathews will talk about his latest bestseller, "Being a Happy Teenager," and his insights on the difficulties of growing up and being happy. His new book offers frustrated teeners and their hapless and helpless parents' funny perspectives on handling adolescence and sibling and parent-child relationships. Mathews' irreverent and self-effacing style makes for an interesting afternoon chat punctuated by on-the-spot illustrations of his viewing audience.

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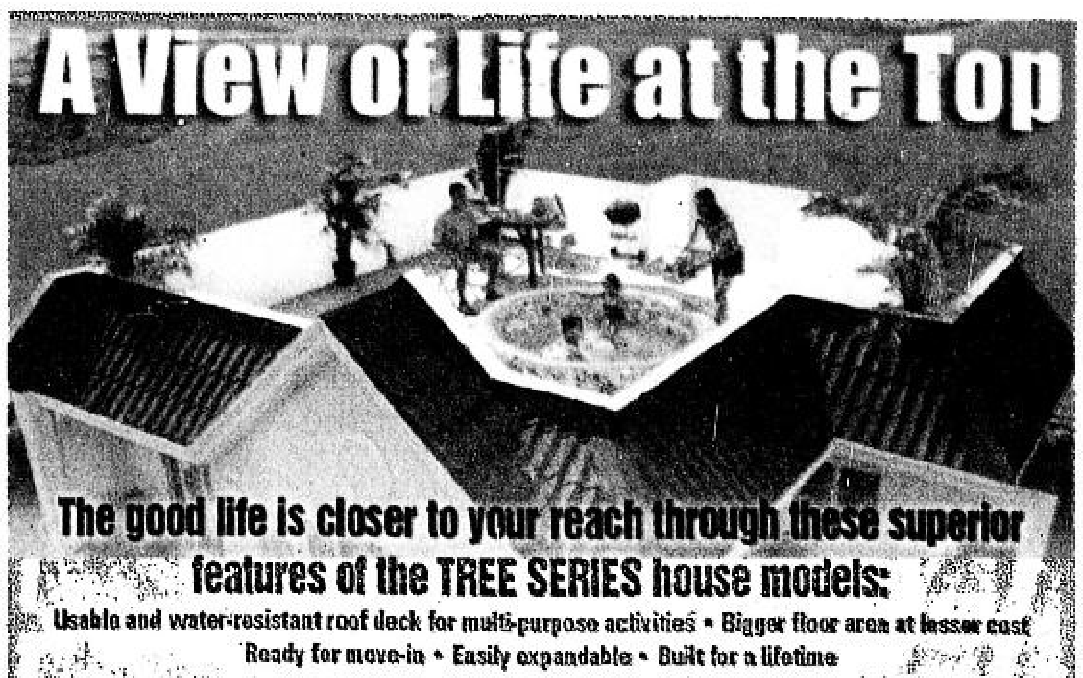

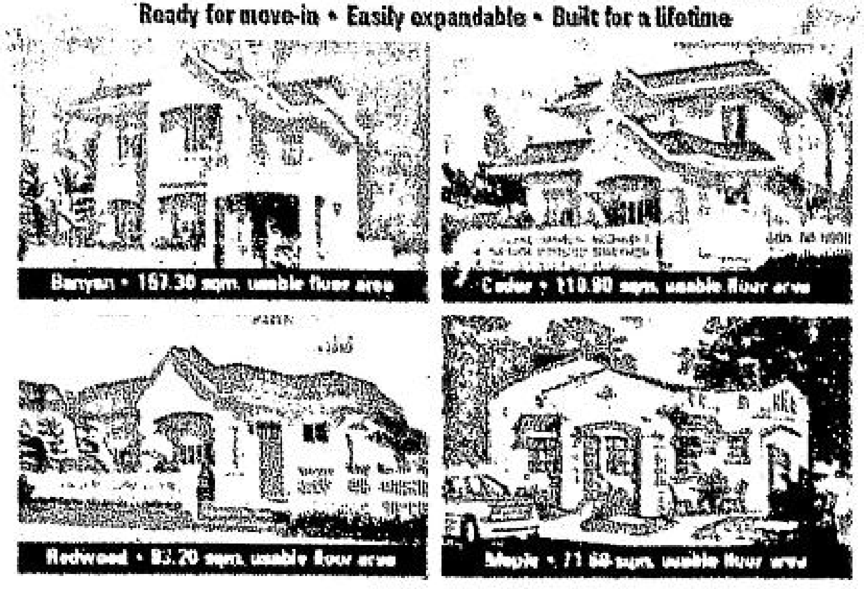

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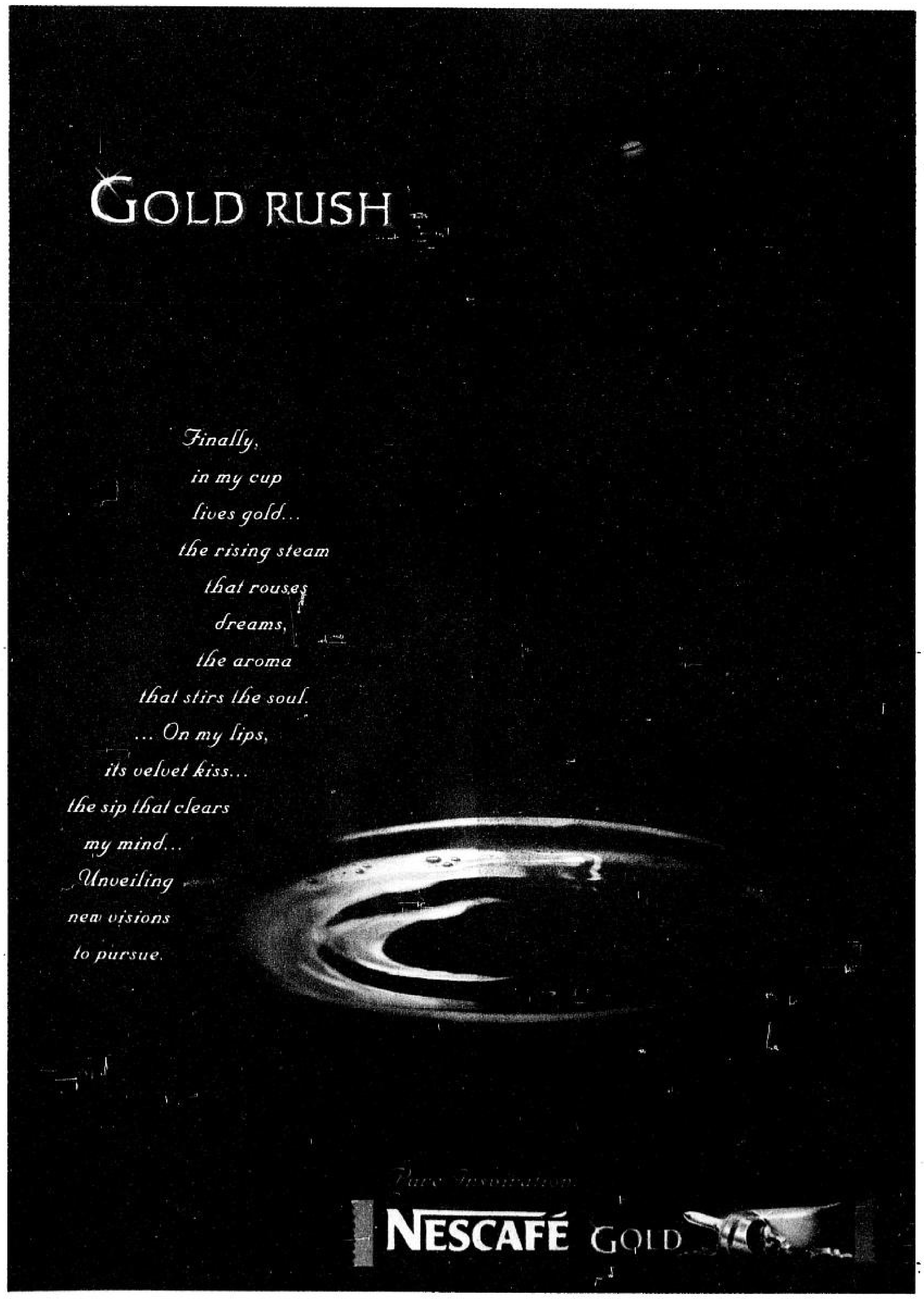

GOLD RUSH

Finally,
in my cup
lives gold...
the rising steam
that rouses
dreams,
the aroma
that stirs the soul.
... On my lips,
its velvet kiss...
the sip that clears
my mind...
Unveiling
new visions
to pursue.

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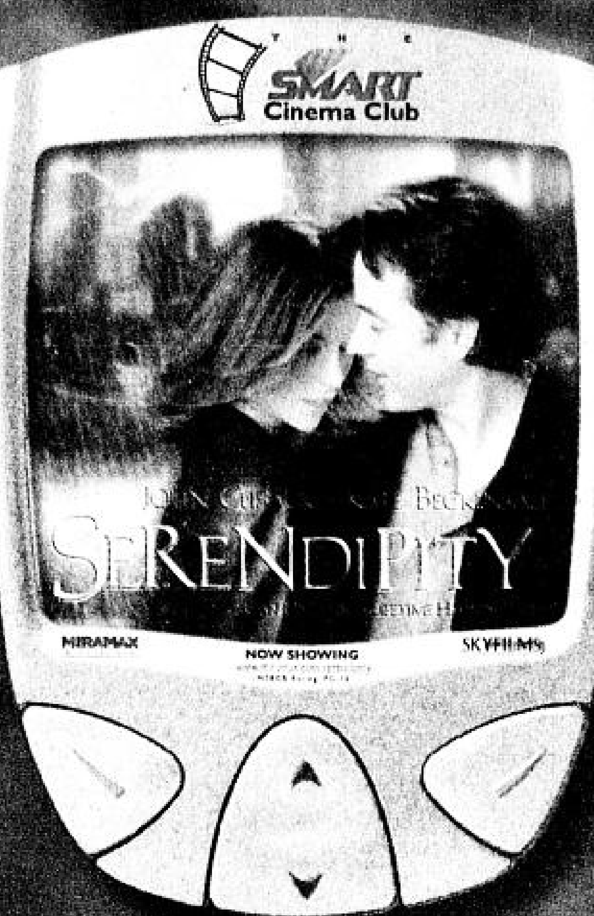
NESCAFÉ GOLD

Destiny with a sense of humor.



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Can Once In A Lifetime Happen Twice
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To download, key in PIC <keyword> and send to 239.
Ex: PIC sdcasiopia

SCREEN SAVERS**:
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To download, key in SAVER <keyword> and send to 239.
Ex: SAVER sdjohncusack

GAMES & RINGTONE

Is He/She The One?
Find out if he or she is the right person for you. Key in PLAY SD. To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the no. <1,2,3 or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.

Are You Soul Mates?
This test tells you if you're soul mates or not. Key in PLAY SD2. To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the no. <1,2,3 or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.

Can You Be More Than Friends?
Falling in love with a pal? Find out if there's something between the two of you. Key in PLAY SD3. To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the no. <1,2,3 or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.

Common Thoughts
Get a regular dose of quiz questions with this game. Simply key in CT ON. To answer the questions, key in CT and the letter <A,B,C, or D> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.
Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first. To quit, key in QUIT and send to 239.

RINGTONE**:
Still can't get enough of Serendipity? Key in TONE SD and send to 239 to download the Serendipity ringtone.

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To receive more information on different commands, key in HELP <command> and send to 239.

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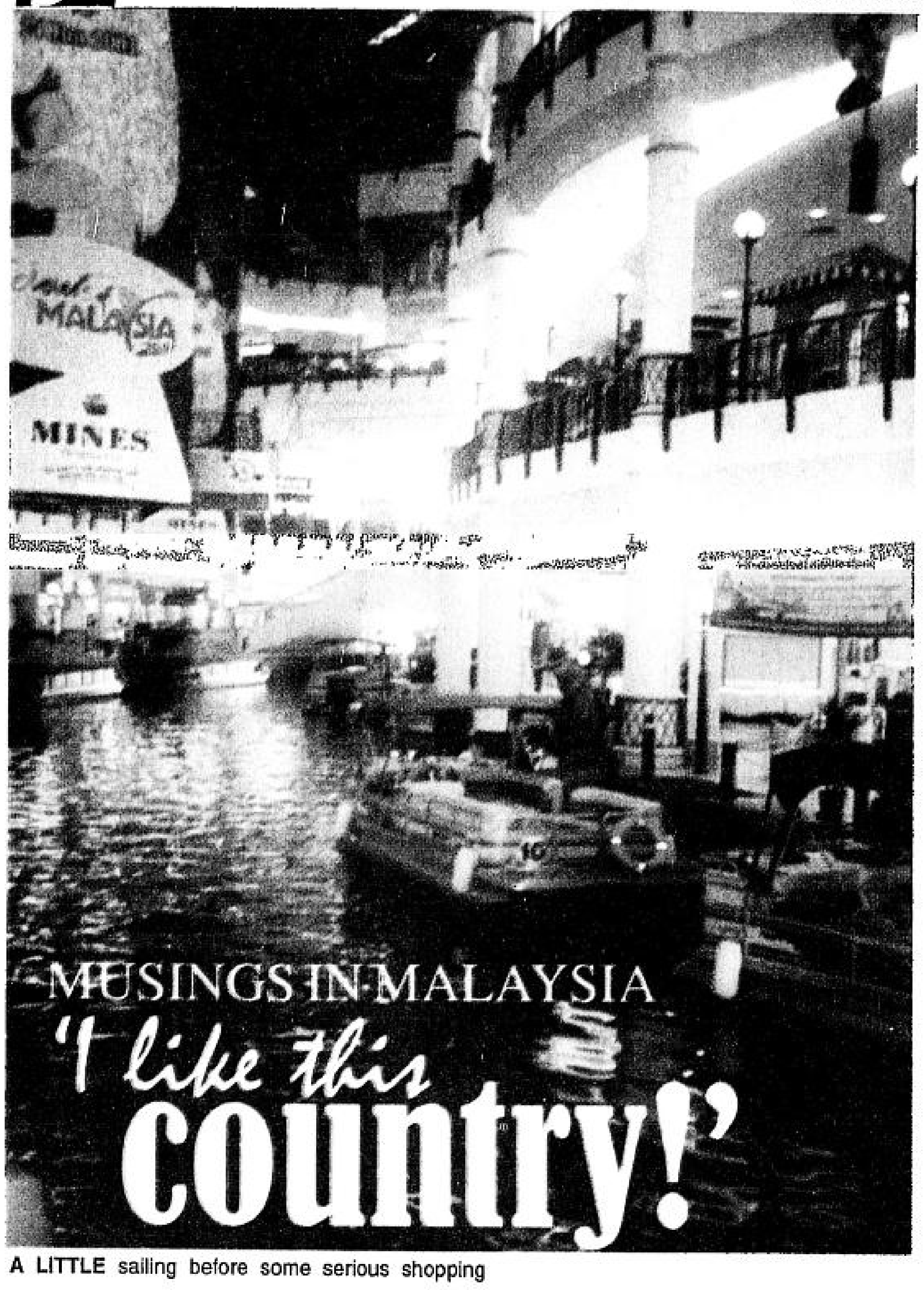


MUSINGS IN MALAYSIA

'I like this country!'

A LITTLE sailing before some serious shopping

(Second of two parts)

By Lydia Cloma

DAY 4 of our tour of Malaysia is a rainy day, but this does not prevent my husband Tomas Jr. from strolling around. He swears that it is safe to walk in Kuala Lumpur at any time because he also walked last night.

Actually, it is just like at the Ayala Center in our own Makati, where we have armed security guards around every structure and condominium building. The streets have ample lighting; vagrants and bums cannot hang around. Here in Malaysia, it is simpler. The streets are safe because there are strict laws with severe penalties.

Today's tour highlight is a visit to the Putrajaya, Malaysia's federal administrative center. The area is a dignified community isolated from the city, where the stately office building of the Prime Minister looms as the nucleus.

The community has 35 sections, including the residences of the Prime Minister, deputy ministers, heads of departments, down to the ordinary office worker.

We are given an orientation ride around the complex to show us the shopping area, mosque, food court, market, etc., as well as the children's school. A shuttle service takes charge of the transportation of government workers.

It is too much to even dream of a concept like Putrajaya in the Philippines considering our current economic downtrend. But for security reasons, shouldn't Malacañang be provided a secret passage for the safe exit of our President in case an emergency requires a fast getaway?

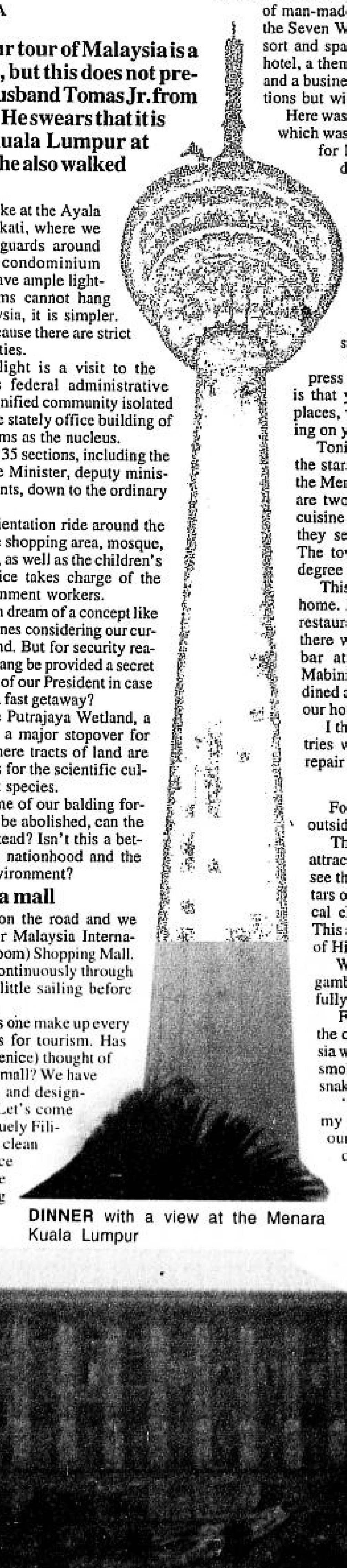
Our next stop is the Putrajaya Wetland, a nature preserve that is a major stopover for migrating birds and where tracts of land are devoted to nursery beds for the scientific cultivation of certain plant species.

The place reminds me of our balding forests. Should the ROTC be abolished, can the students plant trees instead? Isn't this a better way to take part in nationhood and the improvement of our environment?

Lake in a mall

A little more time on the road and we stop at the MINES (for Malaysia International Exhibition Showroom) Shopping Mall. An artificial lake runs continuously through it so visitors can do a little sailing before shopping.

Unique ideas like this one make up every country's selling points for tourism. Has any other place (even Venice) thought of installing a lake inside a mall? We have many brilliant planners and designers in the Philippines. Let's come up with something uniquely Filipino. Perhaps we can clean up the Pasig River once and for all and let it come alive with "floating tours" on ferryboats.



DINNER with a view at the Menara Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia is proud of its sprawling (1,000 acres!) MINES Resort City, which is built around 140 acres of man-made lake. The resort city showcases the Seven Wonders of Malaysia—a beach resort and spa, an exhibition and showroom, a hotel, a theme park, a mall, a golf resort club, and a business park, all done in lavish proportions but with taste.

Here was born the history of Kuala Lumpur, which was the world's largest open tin mine for half a century until the business dwindled in the world market. Now it has resurrected into this state-of-the-art resort city.

We breeze through the luxurious buildings and stop at the hotel called The Palace of the Golden Horses. This colossal structure reminds us of the Sun City in Africa. A photo of then President Joseph Estrada as a state visitor still hangs on a wall.

The beauty about Adam's Express Travel's full-board package tour is that you are taken to the best dining places, which you will not think of visiting on your own.

Tonight we are dressed for dinner with the stars—atop the revolving restaurant, the Menara Kuala Lumpur tower. (There are two buffet tables laden with native cuisine but my children's eyes pop when they see the mouth-watering desserts.) The tower provides a spectacular 360-degree view of KL and its surroundings.

This idea is actually nothing new at home. In Quiapo, we had the revolving restaurant of my friend, Henry Sy. Then there was a revolving disco-restaurant-bar atop the Ambassador Hotel in Mabini. When the kids were small we dined at a revolving restaurant on top of our hotel in Cebu.

I think we have outdone some countries with our revolving towers. Let's repair and revive!

Limestone caves

For Day 5, there is an excursion outside KL.

The Batu caves are one of the many attractions of the state of Selangor. To see the limestone caves with Hindu altars on top, one must hurdle the physical challenge of climbing 272 steps. This ambience signifies the integration of Hindu culture in Malaysia.

Word of warning: Monkeys freely gambol about and may even grab playfully at a hat or a can of soda.

From the caves, we were again on the comfortable highways of Malaysia where there are no spurting black smoke, no dilapidated vehicles, no snake driving, and no speeding.

"It is like back home in Iowa," my eldest daughter, Lyrio, tells our guide Mr. Dino. "How does your government make drivers obey traffic rules?"

The tours are fun, quite comprehensive, even relaxing. And for the kids, the theme park rides are gut-wrenching

He explains that before any vehicle is released after registration, the government installs devices to monitor and record speeding and other traffic violations. This record is periodically checked. Other built-in equipment helps the driver, through sounds, maneuver safely, park, or back up.

Beep, beep. We are surprised by the loud sound inside the wagon. "There!" says Mr. Dino. "Those are warning sounds telling us we are exceeding the speed limit. All violations are recorded for review later."

Hmm. I wonder what our Land Transportation Office will think of this idea.

"Hey, look!" my youngest daughter, Lynor, cries out. "They also have a motorcycle lane! Why can't we have that in Metro Manila so I can drive my motor bike on the highway?"

After a picturesque mountain drive, we check in at the Awana Genting Highlands Resort and Country Club. Tucked away in an idyllic setting of mountain and tropical forest, the hotel is a nirvana for nature lovers and golfers.

Charmed by the environment, the kids decide to extend our stay until 4 p.m., instead of 12 noon, the next day. The manager himself, Gulab Prasad, phones Mr. Dino by long distance to tell him to delay his pick-up time. Then we go off in all directions to try some outdoor options like swimming, tennis, golf, horseback riding, tennis, squash, badminton, etc.

After dinner, only Tomas Jr., our 6-year-old Thomas and I go up to the Genting Highlands Theme Park via cable car. After the Magic Show on Ice, Thomas joins the crowd in the fever-pitch atmosphere of the kiddie video games at the indoor theme park.

Entertainment city

On Day 6, our last full day in Malaysia, the kids go up to the outdoor theme park for some gut-wrenching rides, shows and games. Here, one ticket can buy 30 exciting "repeatable" rides. Is it any wonder that for the kids, this is a major event of the tour?

I am reminded of Admiral Tomas Cloma Sr., who confided to me his dream of putting up a theme park on one of the peaks of Baguio. He wanted to call it Clomaland. But he was already 90 then and his body couldn't cope with his still youthful mind. Perhaps some younger entrepreneurs can pick up from there.

OPULENCE at The Palace of the Golden Horses

Genting Highlands is an entertainment city at 6,000 feet above sea level, which is accessible by motor or by cable car. The structures include a casino resort, hotels, sports facilities, a golf course, restaurants, a theme park and a showroom for events such as live concerts.

At 5 p.m. we are approaching the city again to cram a few more surprises from Mr. Dino. A quick glimpse of the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel—another example of Malaysia's passion for opulent hotels—is first on the list. Here, a dazzling strip of sandy coastline joins up with a lagoon with the giant waves. It is apparently the product of some engineering expertise, like in our own Splash Island.

Just a skip away, we stop at another theme park where we go on a boat ride that drenches us almost to the bone. We return to the wagon still dripping but amused by the interlude.

We dash to a mall for some quick shopping before a Chinese dinner. For our final night, we are booked at the Sheraton-Subang. At last we have a cable TV, in perfect condition. But there is hardly time to watch, it being packing time.

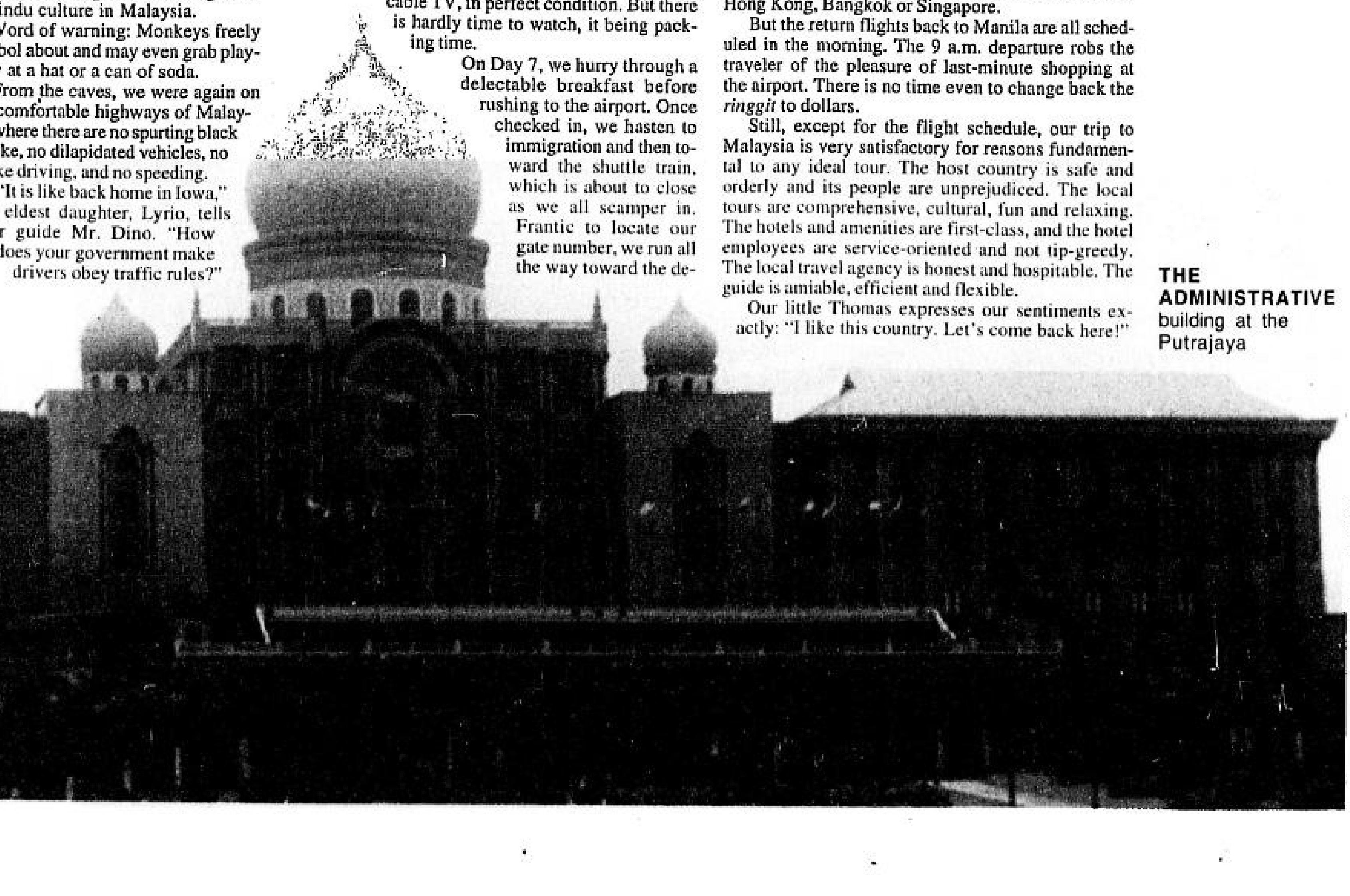
On Day 7, we hurry through a delectable breakfast before rushing to the airport. Once checked in, we hasten to immigration and then toward the shuttle train, which is about to close as we all scamper in. Frantic to locate our gate number, we run all the way toward the departure area. The boarding call pounds in our hearts as we scurry through the X-ray and security checks. By the time we reach the airplane, we are a bunch of nervous wrecks!

This last day could have been a delightful shopping experience before departing for the airport, as in Hong Kong, Bangkok or Singapore.

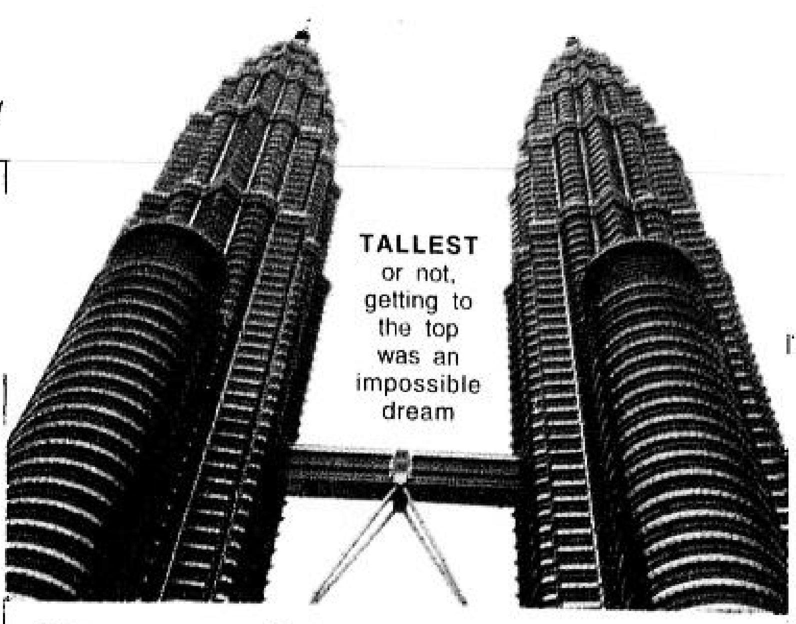
But the return flights back to Manila are all scheduled in the morning. The 9 a.m. departure robs the traveler of the pleasure of last-minute shopping at the airport. There is no time even to change back the *ringgit* to dollars.

Still, except for the flight schedule, our trip to Malaysia is very satisfactory for reasons fundamental to any ideal tour. The host country is safe and orderly and its people are unprejudiced. The local tours are comprehensive, cultural, fun and relaxing. The hotels and amenities are first-class, and the hotel employees are service-oriented and not tip-greedy. The local travel agency is honest and hospitable. The guide is amiable, efficient and flexible.

Our little Thomas expresses our sentiments exactly: "I like this country. Let's come back here!"



THE ADMINISTRATIVE building at the Putrajaya



TALLEST or not, getting to the top was an impossible dream

Teased by the towers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

I COULD not get to the top of the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur. Although the non-experience is not as heartbreaking as going to Paris without being able to climb the Eiffel Tower, I'm very sure it would have largely influenced my perception of Malaysia.

At a glance, the Petronas Towers do not appear as sturdy and imposing as those of the World Trade Center in New York, which two hijacked airliners toppled last Sept. 11. That was my swift verdict from a coaster going to the Sepang F1 Circuit, site of the Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix which I covered last month.

Sure, they stand proud and unchallenged as kings of Kuala Lumpur's skyline, but they do not seem robust enough to merit the tag "tallest building in the world." Actually, even that is subject to debate because their height (1,483 feet) already includes the spires, making them taller than the destroyed WTC towers by at least 115 feet. But in fact, the Petronas Towers only have 88 floors each, as against the WTC's 110 apiece. At any rate, they were not the contenders in height. The WTC was actually the fourth tallest behind the Petronas Towers, Sears Tower in Chicago (1,450 feet) and Jin Mao Building in Shanghai (1,381 feet).

But for all that, the bus that took us to the Olympics of motorcycle racing passed by the famous skyscrapers often enough to get me intrigued and make me decide to get to them on my own.

One morning I slipped out of the Regent and walked all the way to the Petronas Towers, guided by the twin tips that in my vision slipped in and out of the city's high-rise maze. Once at the foot of the famous landmark, I found it difficult to crane my neck and view the massiveness from below, let alone capture it with my camera.

The towers are emerald-colored glass and stainless steel stacked neatly all the way up, getting thinner as they reach the top. The lobby does not have a sign or an emblem, and there is no information desk either. The grills are drawn on the staircases on both sides of the entrance.

"How do I get to the observation deck?" I asked a security guard.

He politely replied: "It's been closed to the public, sir. If you don't have official business, you can't go up."

"Is it because of the Sept. 11 attacks?" I said.

The guard simply nodded.

"Okay, can I just go up the sky bridge?" I said, referring to the 42nd-floor structure from where Sean Connery made a daring leap in the movie "Entrapment."

The guard shook his head.

That was how I found myself just taking a stroll in the six-story mall nestled in the middle of the towers before heading back to the hotel for the day's races.

The truth is, the Sepang F1 Circuit is yet another of Malaysia's great tourist attractions. It is a spread of 280 hectares with state-of-the-art facilities for all kinds of motor sports, especially F1 racing. It cost $80 million to build, and can accommodate 130,000 spectators.

Pilipinas Shell marketing manager Serge Bernal Jr., who has visited various F1 circuits in the world in monitoring the performance of the firm's engine lubricants, said this was what the Philippines needed in order to stamp its class in both the sports and tourism industries.

On our final night, just when I thought I was finally getting over my disappointment over the Petronas Towers, Serge told me we were dining at the revolving restaurant atop the Kuala Lumpur Tower. At 1,263 feet, the KL Tower is the closest rival of the Petronas Towers in the city skyline.

Known as the Menara Kuala Lumpur, it is the world's fourth tallest concrete tower (meaning there are no occupants, just a tower for telecommunication transmitters and a viewing deck for tourists). It comes next to the CN Tower in Toronto, the Ostankino Tower in Russia and the Shanghai Tower in China.

When you get inside the elevator cars, you will see meters, and not floor numbers, on the indicator—from 0 and so on until you reach the restaurant at 273 meters up.

But the restaurant did not appear to be moving at all. It revolved very slowly, as though I were just having a fit of dizziness or something.

According to the waiters, it takes an hour and a half to make one revolution. The buffet tables are scattered around the restaurant, and you get a 360-degree view of the glittering city while scooping up chicken curry, roast (*halal*) beef, smoked salmon and steamed oysters. But you need to make reservations weeks in advance to get a seat, and the eat-all-you-can buffet costs about RM80 (roughly P1,000) per person.

By the time we were washing down our supper with red wine, the Petronas Towers had begun to emerge into view, gleaming temptingly like the Empire State Building in those Hollywood movies.

Not wasting a minute, I asked my companions to click away while I posed behind the dining table, with the towers in the background.

The thing was, I completely forgot about the limitations of my lowly instamatic. I used up a roll of film that night—and I found out later that every single frame was underexposed.

Should he leave everything in the US for love?

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

It has been years since I left for the United States, but the feeling I have for my high school sweetheart, Lena, remains strong. Friends have told me to move on. I did get involved with many girls, but to tell you honestly, I still see her face when I close my eyes at night and when I wake up in the morning.

I cannot complain about my life here in the US. Great job, nice car, brand-name clothes. I have been able to accomplish things that I would never have in the Philippines.

She was my first love; I was her first, too. She brought out the best in me. She was a sister, a classmate, a girlfriend, but most especially, she was my best friend. She knew me inside-out. She knew all my secrets. She was the one who pushed me to go to the US and now I'm reaping the benefits of it. I was emotionally weak back then, but she was the one who gave me strength. I told myself that I would marry her someday.

It was my fault that we broke up. During my first years in the US, I cheated on her, and she found that out through a friend. Months passed and there were no letters, no phone calls. But eventually we became friends again. We talked on the phone occasionally, but we avoided talking about what happened to our relationship. A very well-known international company employed her. She lived her dream and supported her family.

In 1999, I went back to the Philippines to attend my best friend's wedding. A week before I arrived, she told me on the phone that she wouldn't make it to the wedding for she would be tied up with work. I told her that we could just go out for dinner for old times' sake and she agreed. The wedding day arrived and I had fun. I didn't mind the headache caused by the jet lag because my high school classmates were all there so it was a big reunion for us. I was in the basement chatting with old pals when a friend told me that he was going to introduce me to someone upstairs. So I went up and to my big surprise, she was there standing in front of me. No words came out of my mouth except "hi." I was shaking. It was the most nervous experience I ever had. We just shook hands, then I kissed her on the left cheek. All of our classmates and friends sang "Together Again." We talked after the wedding and I asked for her forgiveness. I kissed the lips that I had wanted to kiss since leaving for the US.

I spent a month in the Philippines and it was the best time of my life. I was living a fairy tale. Before I got back to the US, we became engaged.

Unfortunately, our love grew cold. We couldn't find time to talk because we were both busy working. We became strangers to each other. The engagement was called off. I was hurt but she was hurt more.

It has been two years and it still hurts. She has made up her mind not to marry. She would stay single for the rest of her life. She avoids me, according to our friends, but they could still see that she still cares for me. When I spoke with her a week ago, she told me that the thought of us together still crosses her mind, but she ignores it.

I have lost her twice and I don't want to lose her again. I am willing to give up everything I have to go back to the Philippines just to prove how much I love her. Is risking everything for the one you love worth it? Should I start anew?

TOMMY

It is true that time and distance can sometimes be love's greatest enemy. You have proven that twice and you know how career and other priorities could sideswipe a relationship.

Loving someone would always entail decisions that may change lives forever. You have a clear picture of where your relationship is heading if you decide to stay in the US. If convincing her to join you there proves very difficult, then someone has to make a sacrifice. If you ask me if it's worth risking everything for someone you truly love, my answer is yes.

The true test of one's love is one's willingness to deny oneself. Love is sometimes spelled sacrifice. It is what we give and not what we get from a relationship that makes it rewarding.

At this point, you know that there is only one way to prove your love for the girl you want to marry. Opportunities for a better life come often but love knocks only a few times. This may be your last call.

Don't fall for dubious investment schemes

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

DESPITE repeated warnings about investment schemes that fall short of expectations, about business deals that turn out to be fraudulent, many Filipinos are still falling for these get-rich ploys.

Pyramid schemes, for example, may have been exposed as a scam, but the facts show that these have only evolved into different multilevel marketing business opportunities. According to a research center that recently issued a consumer guide on multilevel marketing, practically every adult Filipino in urban areas has been solicited, enticed or recruited to promote and sell investment schemes and products of various multilevel marketing (MLM) companies.

What is worrisome is the fact disclosed by the research firm Uptrend Business Center that some physicians who were lured by fat commissions and other perks may have been selling to their patients products of the multilevel clutch, even if the products were non-health related.

The consumer guide issued by the Uptrend Business Center contains several articles and readings from the United States. The articles are relevant to local situation since most MLM business opportunities and products sold in the Philippines come from the United States.

The guide is an eye-opener for Filipino consumers who are thinking of investing hard-earned money into get-rich-quick business ventures. It answers questions on prospects, profitability, legality and different business oppositions to multilevel marketing companies. Call 928-3464 or e-mail uptrend@pacific.net.ph.

E-mail scams

SOME time ago, a consumer alert bulletin was issued by the Federal Trade Commission to warn consumers about fraudulent business opportunities being pandered .by scammers through e-mail and the Internet. FTC identified some of these scams as:

Business opportunities—Offers unbelievable earning without much work or cash outlay. Many solicitations claim to offer a way to make money in an Internet-related business..Short on details but long on promises, the messages mention a telephone number to call for more information. Most often, you are asked to send in your name and telephone numbers so a salesperson can return your call.

Bulk mail—Offers a long list of e-mail addresses to which you can send your own bulk solicitations, or will volunteer their services to send the bulk solicitation for you. This can land you in trouble. Sending bulk e-mail may violate your terms of service with most Internet-service providers. Your ISP may even shut you down.

Chain letter—You are asked to send money to each of the names in the enclosed list, replace one of the names in the list with your own, and send revised message via bulk mail. The fact is chain letters, whether these are traditional or high-tech, are mostly illegal. Nearly all the participants lose their money, except for the promoters.

Health and diet schemes—Products that let you lose weight without exercising or changing your diet, herbal formulas that liquefy your fat cells, and cures for impotence and hair loss. Case histories and testimonials are invoked, and buzzwords used are scientific breakthrough, miraculous cure, exclusive product, secret formula, ancient ingredient. The fact is, successful weight loss requires a reduction in calorie intake and an increase in physical activity.

Effortless scheme—Get-rich-quick schemes offer unlimited profits exchanging money on world currency markets. The fact is, easy money may be appealing, but success generally requires hard work.

Free goods—Valuable goods are offered for free, such as computers, electronic items, long-distance phone cards. But you are asked to pay a fee to join the club, and to avail of the freebies, you have to bring in a certain number of participants. The fact is, you shell out money but your payoff is in goods, not money, and it is the promoters who earn the money.

Investment opportunities—Promise outrageously high rates of return. At the start, early investors are made to believe the system works because they receive payoff. Money actually comes from contributions of later investors. Fraudulent promoters operate the scam for a short time, quickly get the money they take in, then close down before they are detected. Their sales pitch includes claims that they have high-level financial connections, they guarantee investment, or they will buy back investment after a time.

Vacation prize promotion—Electronic cards or certificates congratulating you for "winning a fabulous cruise vacation for a very attractive price" or "being specially selected" for the grand vacation. The fact is, the cruise ship may look more like a tugboat, hotel accommodation is shabby and you may be required to pay more for an upgrade.

G. Cosmos billboards

NOW that the Securities and Exchange Commission is issuing a cease-and-desist order to G. Cosmos for supposedly selling unregistered securities to the public, those humongous G. Cosmos billboards on major highways should be removed. We noted billboard locations on C-5, South Expressway, Commonwealth Avenue and Quiapo.

G. Cosmos, headed by Japanese national G. Ogami, is an ad agency affiliated with the Japan-based G. Cosmos Co. Ltd. According to the SEC, the investment contracts that G. Cosmos entered into with its clients are considered securities. It is defined as "transaction or scheme whereby a person invests his money in a common enterprise, and is led to expect profits from the efforts of others."

For more information on the G. Cosmos operations, call the SEC-compliance and enforcement department at 727-3188 or 724-7650.

Praises

"MORE power to the Department of Trade and Industry for acting on my complaint," wrote Mike Posadas. He said the DTI consumer assistance staff assisted him in formalizing his complaint so a DTI representative could be assigned to help him with the case.

Posadas wrote: "Through your column, may this letter give appropriate commendation to the DTI, as well as to encourage consumers to seek DTI's help with their valid complaints against violations of the Consumer Act."

Substandard LPG tanks

PRAISES to the DTI for recalling from the market 44,000 units of substandard 11-kg liquefied petroleum gas cylinders manufactured by Pilipinas Daechang Steel Co.

DTI Secretary Mar Roxas said the containers were recalled for the protection and safety of consumers. The units failed the safety test in the random sampling conducted by the DTI Bureau of Product Standards.

Roxas expressed alarm that this is only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. He disclosed that the recalled units represented only 1 percent of 12-million total LPG containers in the market. Most of these tanks are in Luzon, particularly in Southern Tagalog.

These are the following brand names of recalled tanks: AOM Enterprises, Econo Gas, Laguna Gas, National Gas, Savero Gas, Double M Gas, Island Gas, Right Gas.

For more information on the serial numbers of recalled units, how to identify recalled units, and where to return these, call DTI hotlines 890-5740/5226/4932, or toll free number 1-800-1888-5429. Consumers in the province can call the DTI provincial and regional offices.

PLDT customer assistance

PLDT customers can call on the staff of PLDT quality control division for quick response to complaints about illegal connections, tapping and misuse or abuse of telephone lines.

This may be a long-delayed note of thanks, but we take this chance to thank the division staff for resolving the readers' complaints we forwarded to them some time ago. We are happy to hear the news that Noel Florido, the former division supervisor, has gone to greater heights in the company, and the current division manager is Fidel Paulino.

Here's a note to PLDT subscribers from Ding R. Arambulo of quality control division: "We wish to take this opportunity to reendorse our division's service to PLDT customers, especially those with complaints about illegally tapped lines, or who wish to report about some illegal activities perpetrated by unscrupulous persons."

Customers can call 638-1881/82 and 634-1823, or write to PLDT Quality Control Divisino, 4/F PLDT Garnet Building, Emerald Avenue, 1605 Pasig City.

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com or mgiron@csi.com.ph

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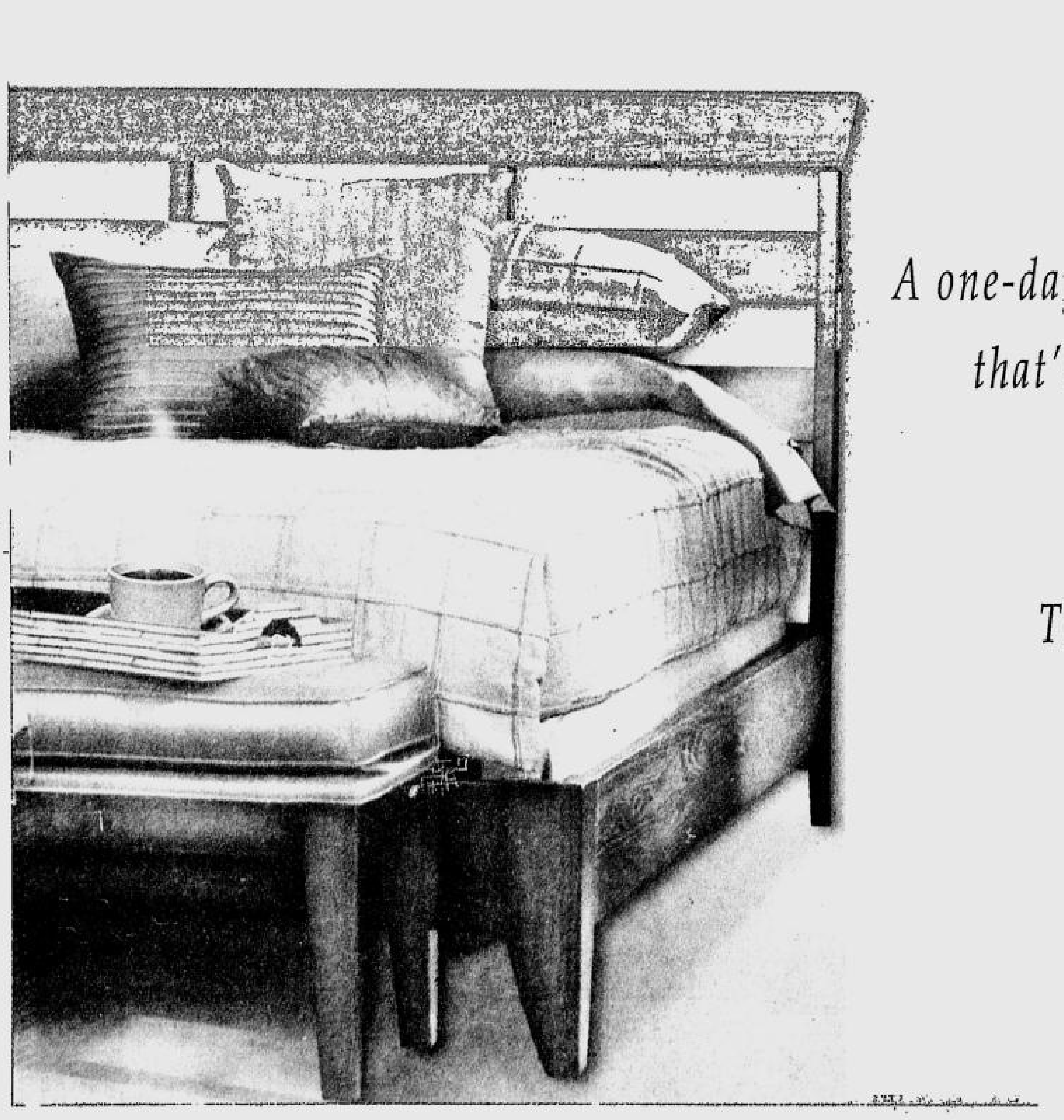

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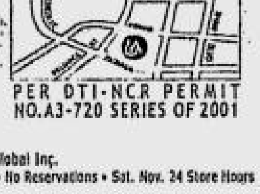

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FLORETTA Sevilla (standing), president of the Australian Wine and Food Co., entertains guests Honey Bee Hubahib, Qantas country manager, and friends at a dinner hosted by Chateau 1771 and the Australian food distributor.

WERNER Berger (second from left) leads friends and associates during a recent wine-tasting event hosted by Werdenberg Corp. and Santis Delicatessen. With him are Markus Ruckstuchi, lawyer Freddie Pio de Roda, Mimi Reyes and Markus Meyer.

Argentine wines take center stage

SHIRAZ NIGHT. Guests at the recent Shiraz grand opening strike a pose: (first row) Gil Coscolluela, Joel Gironella, Peter Limjoco, Leah Sanchez, Lia Bernardo, Maricelle Ligon and Itong Torres; (second row) Tinne de Guzman, Martin Chan, Anton Gonzales, Chiqui de Guzman, Jovy Ang and Mike Jacob.

SEVERAL Australian and Argentine labels were featured during a recent wine-tasting event held by Werdenberg Corp. and Santis Delicatessen at the Gold Ranch restaurant in Makati City.

Four reds—Malbec 2000, Syrah 2000, Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 and Filos Syrah Malbec 1999—and a white Chardonnay 2000 came from the Medrano Estate of Mendoza, Argentina.

The houses of Evans and Tate of the Swan Valley and Margaret River in Western Australia featured three reds—Gnangara Shiraz 2000, Barrique 61 Cabernet Merlot 2000 and Redbrook Margaret River Shiraz 1998—and a fruity pair of whites, Gnangara Chardonnay 2000-2001 and Two Vineyards Margaret River Chardonnay 2000.

Werner Berger, president of Werdenberg, general manager Othmar Frei and marketing manager Mimi Reyes led the wine-tasting. Guests included lawyer Freddie Pio de Roda of International Wine and Food Society, Austrian Trade Commissioner Wolfgang Harwalik, Hans Weckerlin and Juergen Schwarzbauer of Siemens, Peter Casaulta of the Swiss Embassy and Urs Flueckiger of Roche Phils.

Featured wines are available at any of Santis Delicatessen's eight outlets: Yakal, Forbes, Greenhills, Festival Mall, Timog, Silang, Rockwell and Ortigas. Call 840-3771.

Australian wine-tasting

PETER Hickey, Peak Wines Int'l.'s VP for sales and marketing, was in town recently to promote Geyser Peak, Barwang and Canyon Road. Wine-tasting sessions were held at the N Restaurant, Mandaluyong City. Local distributor Maxxium Phils., led by product manager Joann Tioseco, entertained guests.

Geyser Peak, founded in 1880, was named Winery of the Year in 1998 by Wine and Spirits magazine. Its makers, Groom and Schroetar, were chosen Winemaker of the Year for two consecutive years at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London.

Another premium brand named Barwang Shiraz from Australia was also included in the wine-tasting sessions. Peak Wines and Barwang Wines are locally distributed by Maxxium Phils.

Wine lounge opens

SHIRAZ Wine Lounge opened recently at G/F Palisides Building, Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. The wine lounge claims to carry an exclusive selection of wines from all over the world.

People behind Shiraz include Tinee de Guzman board chair; Anton Gonzalez, vice chair and director of finance; Gil Coscolluela, director of operations, and Lia Bernardo, marketing director. Board members are Joel Gironella, Marcella Ligon, Leah Sanchez, Mike Jacob, Peter Limjoco and Itong Torres. Alfredo Pio De Roda is wine consultant.

Call 892-0758.

Spanish wines and food

A SPANISH trade mission visited the Philippines and neighboring Asian countries to promote food and beverage exports from the Iberian country.

Billed as Muestra de Alimentos y Bebidas, the mission was organized by the Economic and Commercial Office of the Embassy of Spain and the Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade.

A Spanish food festival was held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Representatives of Spanish firms met with Filipino hoteliers, restaurateurs, importers, distributors and retailers. Other missions will visit Bangkok and Taipei.

Winemaking in Spain is actually a 3,000-year-old enterprise, although mass production is generally a recent development. The country is now regarded as one of the world's biggest exporters of wine.

Call 891-8635 or 834-7505.

French wines and cheeses

ALLIANCE Française de Manille, with Terry Selection, held recently a cheese and wine festival at the Alliance Française de Manille restaurant.

France boasts of having the biggest variety of cheeses—300—and a source of the finest wines. Alliance Française de Manille has been bringing the different cheeses and wines of France to the Philippines for many years now.

This year, choices included such varieties as Brie and Vacherin, Comfe, Roquefort and the best-selling Edel de Cleron, Etorki and Saint Marcellin. Featured wines were from Burgundy, Bordeaux, Beaujolais and other parts of France.

Friendship toasts

CHATEAU 1771, with the Australian Food and Wine Company and the Australian Wine Commission, staged recently a wine-tasting session and dinner at its Ortigas outlet.

The stars of the evening were Australia's award-winning wines—the Jamieson's Run Collection from Coonawarra—and a special Australian menu prepared by chef Vicky Rose Pacheco.

Australian and Filipino guests included Australian Trade Commissioner Kylie Belle and husband Mark, and Qantas Country manager Honeybee Hubahib. They were joined by members of the Asian Development Bank Gourmet Club led by president Rita O'Sullivan, and Australian Wine and Food Co. president Floretta Sevilla. Chateau 1771 owner Ricky Gutierrez led the toasts.

Guests were treated to Aussie delights such as char-grilled seafood with lemon vinaigrette and duck ravioli on braised lentil. Main course consisted of macadamia crusted salmon with lemon *miso* bechamel and *aglia olio udon* noodles, plus meat pie medallions. For dessert, a light kiwi panna cotta was served. Jamieson's Run Chardonnay 1999 and Run Coonawarra Dry Red 2000 complemented the dishes.

The Chateau 1771 Ortigas wine-tasting and dinner were part of the year-long friendship celebration between AusTrade and Chateau 1771. Call 631-7339 to 41.

WINES to suit every occasion.

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Li Lian Jie	Jet Li
Gary Valenciano	Gary V.
Jennifer Lopez	j.lo
Madonna Louise Ciccone	Madonna
Paul Hewson	Bono
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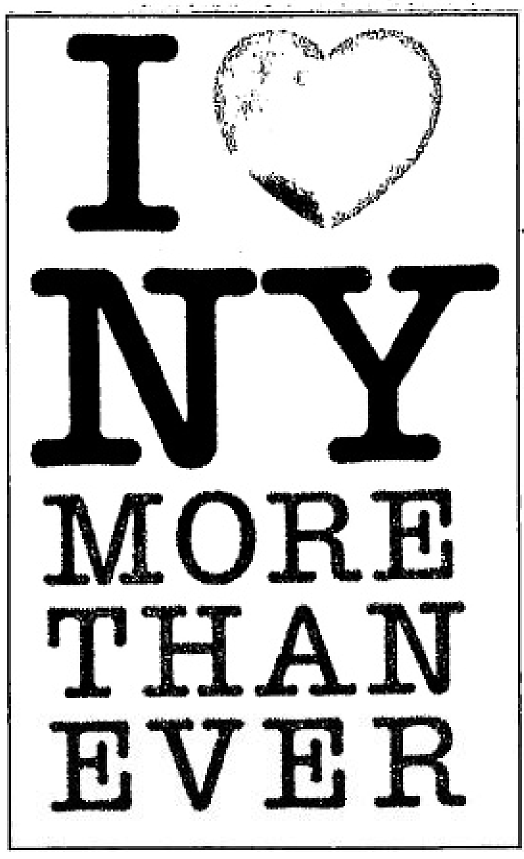
The man who designed one of the world's most ubiquitous logos—'I Love NY'—turns New York's recent terrorist nightmare into an occasion for new solidarity



From pop art to patriotic art

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

NEW YORK CITY—Pop art will always find a place in the American consciousness, whether in good times or bad.

In the wake of recent terrorist attacks that devastated this city, the man responsible for its trademark "I Love NY" logo has reaffirmed his undying affection for the Big Apple.

Veteran graphic designer Milton Glaser has come up with a variation of the icon that vividly captures this city's current state: a metropolis with a wounded but still beating heart. Glaser's latest pledge? "I Love NY More Than Ever."

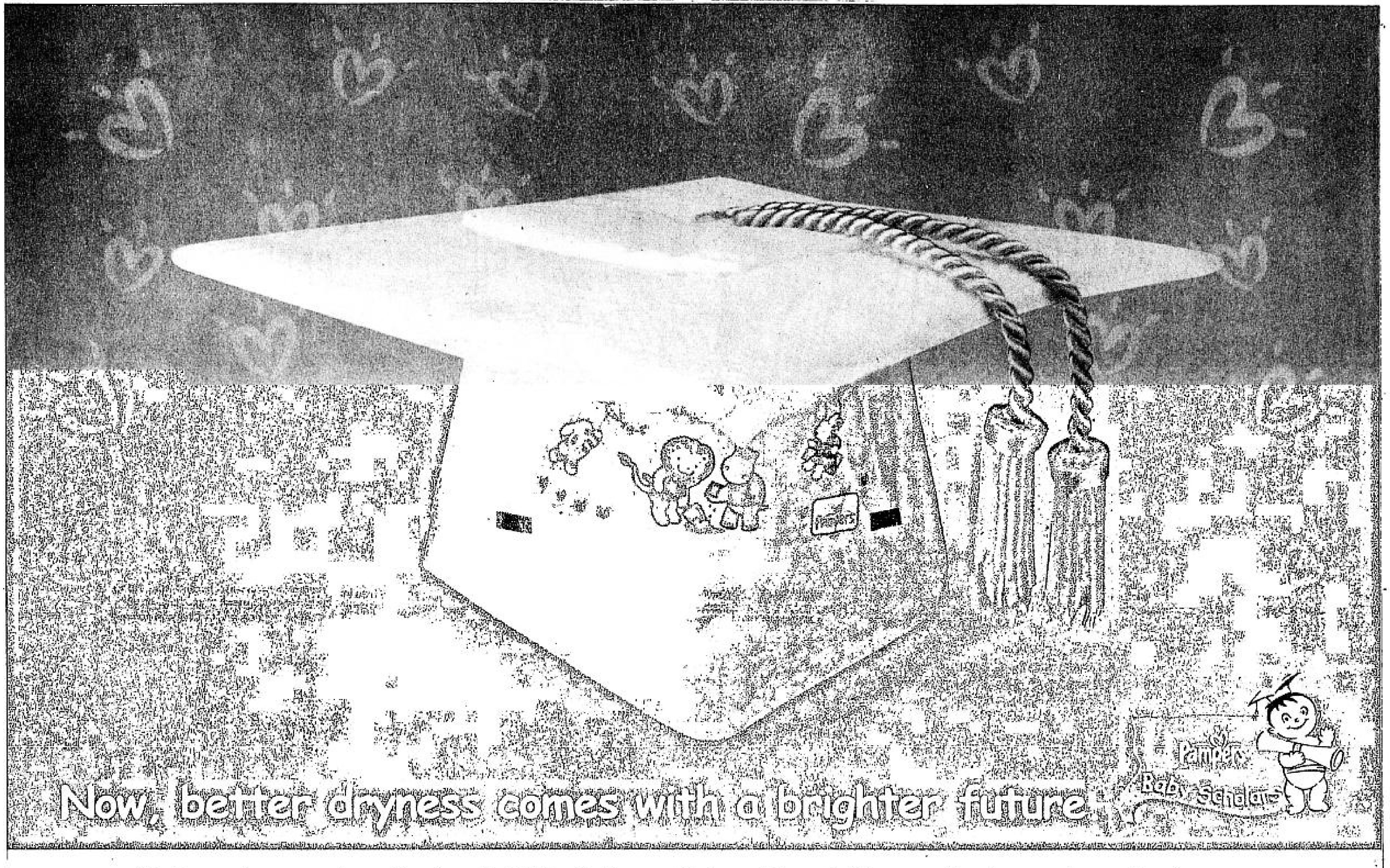
The ubiquitous red heart is still there, all right, but its stained left side is too obvious for the observer to miss. This represents the wound inflicted on New York City on that fateful day in September, said Glaser in a telephone interview from his Manhattan office on 32nd Street.

For a moment, it was hard to believe that we were talking to a 72-year-old man. Resonating with vitality and that quaint New York twang, his friendly voice could very well belong to a man half his age.

"I don't think it's too complicated to figure out," he said of his latest work. "The only subtlety is the wound which is located on the lower west side of the heart." The shaded portion, of course, represents the very area in lower Manhattan where the once proud Twin Towers stood until a pair of hijacked passenger jets slammed into them.

As in 1976, when the "I Love NY" logo came out, Glaser has again shared his art to the city free of charge. The original icon, of course, became the tourism-campaign symbol of the New York State Department of Commerce, and is said to be the most frequently imitated design in logo history.

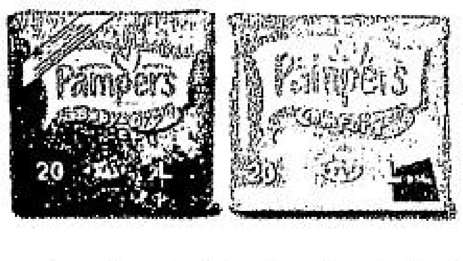
FROM/ p.E2



Get a chance to win 1 of 100 College Educational Plans when you buy Pampers.

MECHANICS

Pampers "Baby Scholars" is a nationwide raffle promotion that gives parents with diaper-aged babies (36 months old & below), the chance to win an educational grant for their babies to ensure their child's future.



1. To join the promotion, accomplish the following information in a clean sheet of paper:
   - * Name of Father/Mother
   - * Birthdate of Father/Mother
   - * Residential address
   - * Telephone no.
   - * Baby's name
   - * Baby's birthdate and age
   - * Signature of Father/Mother
2. Attach one pack of Pampers Baby Dry or Pampers Comfort pack of 4s or more, or four singles packs together with the entry and place in a plain white envelope. Drop entries at dropboxes located at selected supermarkets nationwide.
3. You also have the option to mail your entries to:
   Pampers "Baby Scholars" Raffle Promo
   P.O. Box 2998-1169, Q.C. Central Post Office
4. Deadline for submission of entries are as follows:
   - * First draw: December 22, 2001
   - * Second draw: February 15, 2002
5. Both draws will be held at Eat Bulaga. Schedule of draws as follows:
   - * First draw: January 5, 2002
   - * Second draw: March 2, 2002
6. Prizes at stake are 100 CAP College Educational Grants (14 years maturity, CFEP. Details subject to CAP policies/rules/regulations) to be divided into the two draws.
   - * First draw: 20 Winners
   - * Second draw: 80 Winners
7. Non-winning entries in the first draw shall be qualified for the second draw.
8. All prizes are tax-free. Procter & Gamble Distributing (Phils.), Inc. shall shoulder all necessary taxes.
9. The prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. The prize can be availed after 14 years.
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail.
11. To claim their prize, the winner must present their letter of notification together with a valid identification (e.g. Driver's License, Philippine passport, company ID) to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi (Marketing Services Department), 10th Flr, Feliza Building, 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
12. For provincial winners, their letter of notification shall indicate the nearest Procter & Gamble office where they may claim their prize.
13. Winners may claim their prizes within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification.Prizes not claimed within the given period are forfeited with prior approval form DTI.
14. Employees of Procter & Gamble Phils., Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Promo Dimensions Inc., its PR agencies, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
15. Promo period is from November 4, 2001 up to February 15, 2002.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1727, series of 2001.

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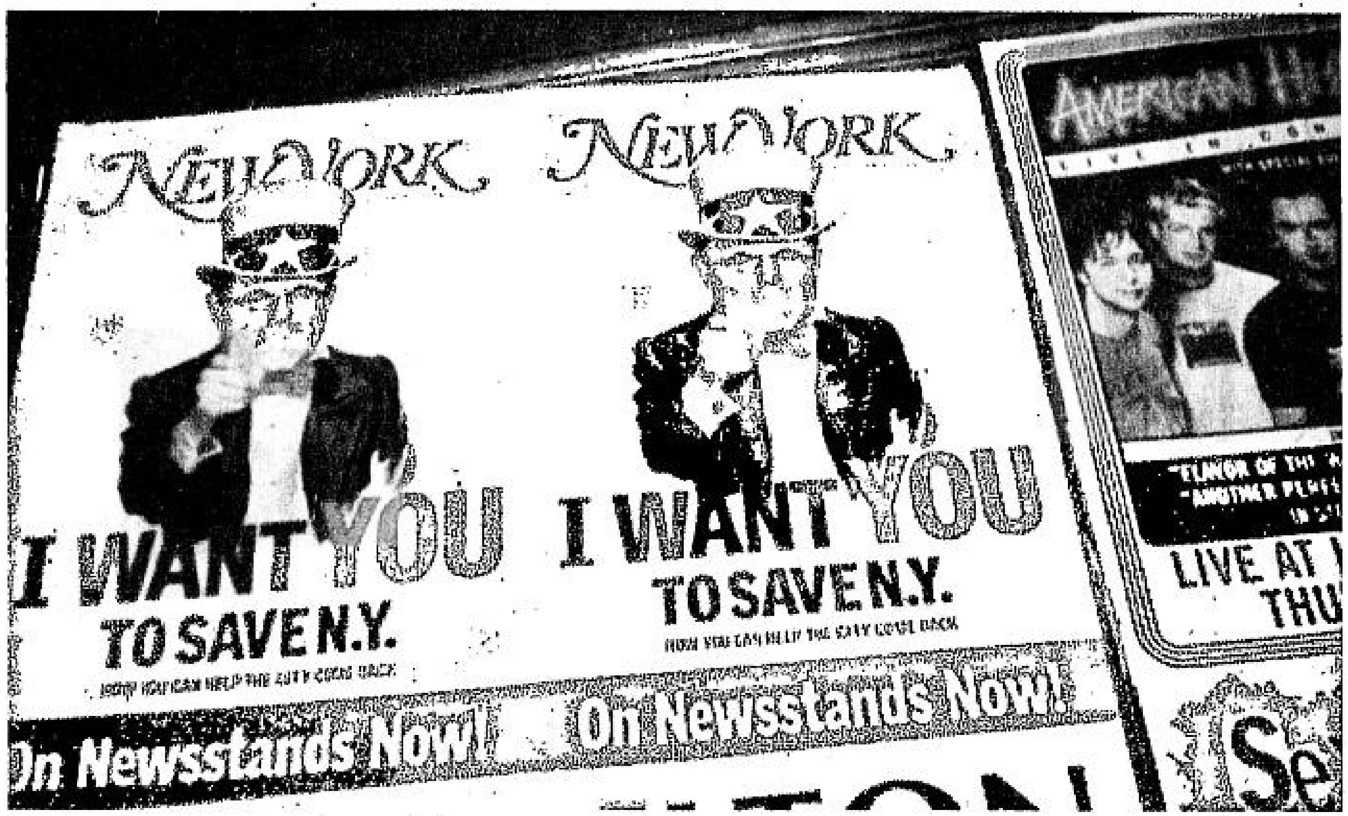
BIG Apple with a twist



MAN OF THE HOUR. Uncle Rudy Giuliani wants you.

From pop art to patriotic art

(From page E1)

"They've used the logo everywhere," he said, referring to his older creation. "It has become such a universal idea that you think it has never been designed at all." Even so, Glaser is the first to brush aside his concept as nothing more than a puzzle—"a little exercise that persists in the viewer's mind. It just so happened that my work has been sufficient enough to express a banal and obvious idea that could be used by everyone."

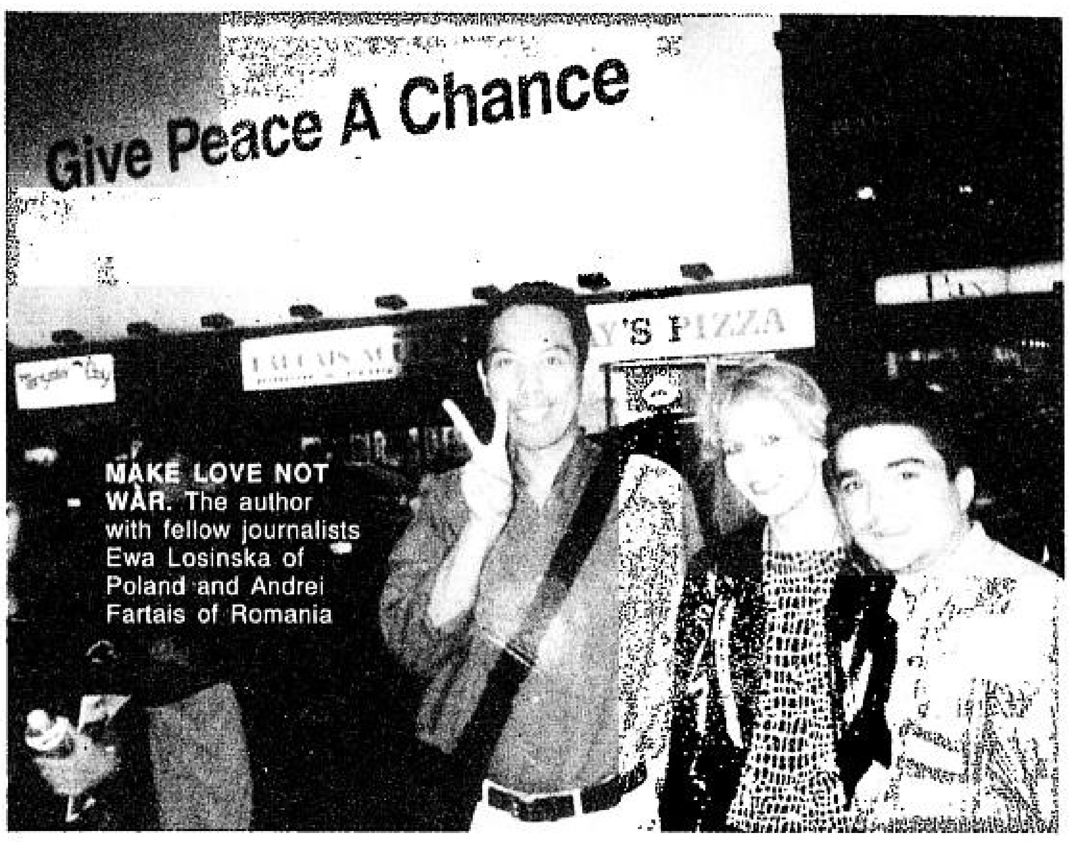
Tepid

But unlike before, the same department seems tepid in adopting this latest reincarnation. Glaser understood. "I don't think the state is interested in acknowledging the wound," he said. He has yet to hear from them after submitting the logo soon after it was finished. "They have a different agenda—not a very poetic agenda."

He then sent the logo to the New York Daily News, which lost no time in reproducing and using it as its newspaper cover. Close to a million copies of the logo circulated around the city, turning up on windows, lampposts and subway walls.

Not surprisingly, it readily appealed to a number of students who distributed it for free to friends as well as strangers. Like Glaser, the trag-

FROM/ p.E3



MAKE LOVE NOT WAR. The author with fellow journalists Ewa Losinska of Poland and Andrei Fartais of Romania

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STAR

From pop art to patriotic art

(From page E2)

edy is probably as personal to many New Yorkers as, say, losing one's home and loved ones to a mysterious fire.

Through his nearly 50-year career as an artist, Glaser and his company have worked on countless posters, magazines, brochures, flyers and billboards.

Among the publications that drew from his and then partner Walter Bernard's expertise were The Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report, The Village Voice, Money and The Nation. Glaser also designed the World Health Organization's International AIDS symbol and poster in 1987.

He's also into interior design, with the interiors of several malls, supermarkets and restaurants tucked under his portfolio. Yes, including what was then known as the highest restaurant on earth called Windows on the World. The place came crashing down with the collapse of the Twin Towers.

Glaser has done work for the World Trade Center that spanned almost 25 years. This included designing the restaurant's main kitchen down to its plates, communication and promotional materials. He also designed WTC's observation deck and permanent exhibition area.

The late Joe Baum, whom Glaser credits as one of New York's greatest restaurateurs, came up with Windows on the World. "He died three years ago and this (restaurant) was one of the last examples of his vision," he said. "Its loss fills me with great sadness."

Great loss

Although no acquaintances of his perished in the tragedy, Glaser's heart goes out to the people who were trapped while working in the restaurant. "I didn't know the waiters, cooks and people who cleaned up, but nevertheless it was a great loss."

Like fellow New Yorkers, Glaser had no inkling of the atrocity that was about to unfold when he came to work that day. He did sense, however, the peculiar surge of energy in the office. He learned the reason from an assistant soon enough: a still unknown jet had plunged into one of the Twin Towers.

Before he could fully digest what was happening, his phone rang and on the other end of the line was a colleague now based in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Oddly enough, he heard the news of the second plane from this woman thousands of miles away from what's now known as Ground Zero.

"God, the irony of it all," he recalled himself saying. "The instantaneous understanding that the entire world has of this event is simply amazing."

Soon enough, Glaser realized the phrase "I Love NY" is no longer enough. He woke up one morning several days later with a fresh idea on his mind. That very morning, "I Love NY More Than Ever" was born. Aside from affirming his devotion, he hopes to help hasten the city's healing process through his latest work.

"Showing a wounded heart is important," he explained. "To attain healing, the first thing one must do is to acknowledge that there's pain."

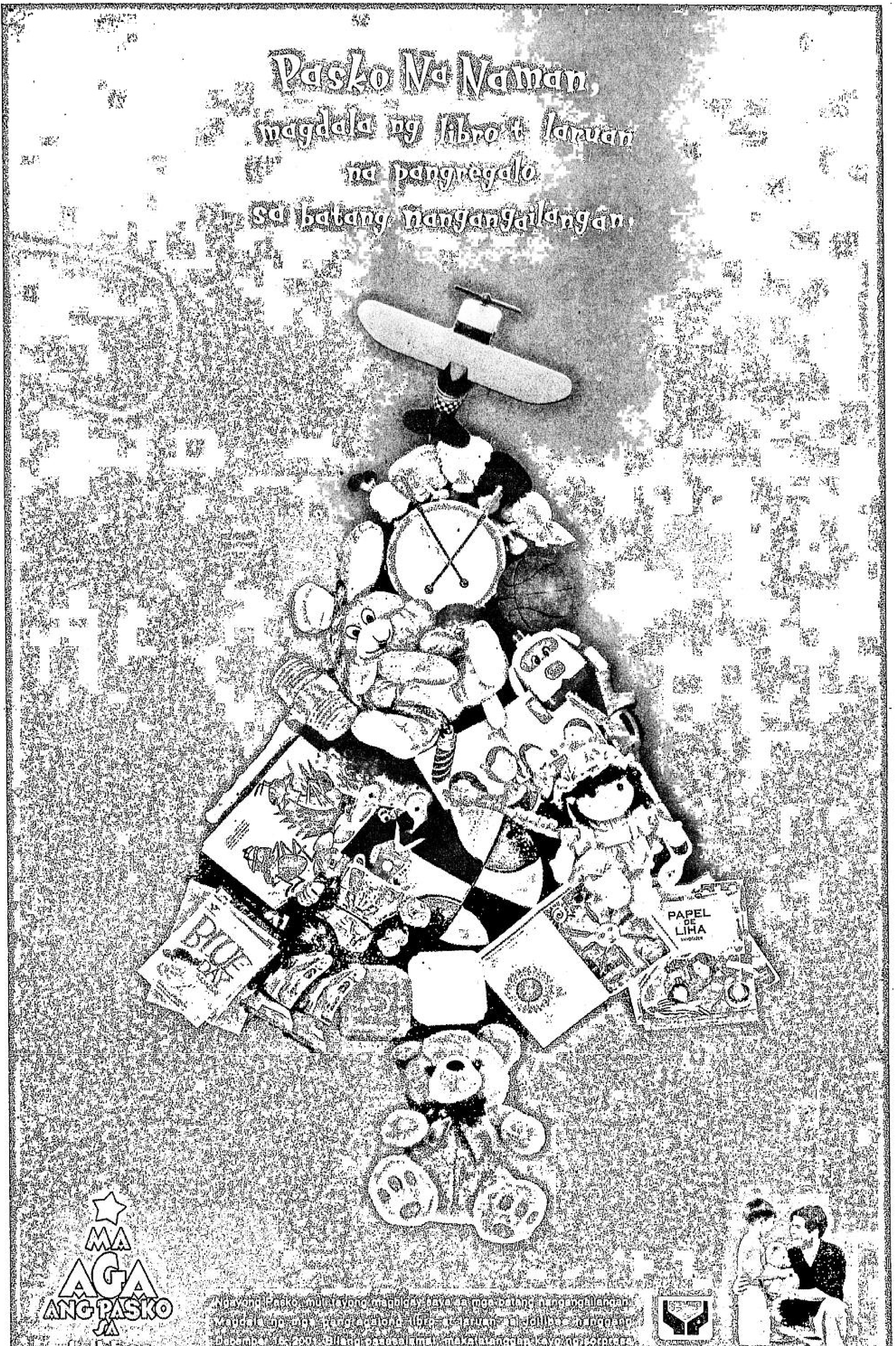
It remains to be seen whether or not Glaser's latest "puzzle" would stand the test of time like its older sibling. At no point in the nation's history have Americans been swamped with so many patriotic billboards with inspiring messages and images. One need not venture beyond Times Square to find this out.

Businesses, from car manufacturers to department stores, have also found myriad ways to ride on the nation's current patriotic fervor to push their products. General Motors, for instance, has coined the catch phrase "Keep America rolling" to energize its slumping car sales. Not a few retailers have staged "freedom-day" sales to move their goods.

"We have become inundated with American flags in every form," said Glaser, "it has become impossible to distinguish one from the other. I can't even imagine how long this experience is going to be with us.

"Of course, people don't want to focus forever on the wound. Who knows, maybe this imagery would last a year or so. But whether it lasts or not is no longer important. My intent was really to express a moment of compassion at a time when we all felt hurt and vulnerable." New Yorkers need a little more love more than ever.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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na pangregalo
sa batang nangangailangan.
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BLUE
MA AGA ANG PASKO SA Jollibee

How do you
battle gladiators
without
an
axe?

Quaint jewel on Pearl River

MEDITERRANEAN atmosphere in the Orient

(From page E8)

Heart of the city

The tourist won't miss Largo do Senado (Senate Square) as it is the heart of the city. Located on Avenida Almeida Ribeiro (formerly San Má Lô, or Main Road), it's a picture-book square with a pavement of white and gray cobblestones forming a mosaic of a Portuguese motif suggesting sea waves. At the center is a fountain with lotuses, while bordering the sides are rows of arcades and historic buildings.

The colonial structures here include the building of the Provisional Municipal Council of Macau, with its library and gardens; and the Santa Casa da Misericórdia (Holy House of Mercy), founded in the 16th century, the oldest institution in Macau.

Says the guide book: "This square is the city's forum, used for big musical and cultural events because of this peculiar scenery of arcades, stuccoes, wooden windows, all in light yellow, rose, dark red and white."

Here, more than anywhere else in the city, you get the impression of being nowhere near the Orient but right smack in the Mediterranean. Stand in the middle of the square and you get the sensation of being flooded with sunlight.

Nearby at the General Post Office is a long, long queue winding down the street. We ask a few locals what it is for, and are told they're lining up for tickets to the Beijing Olympics. We're incredulous, since the event is still almost a decade into the future.

ST. Lawrence's Church, the oldest in the Far East

A Filipino woman in the square, who's been living in Macau for eight years now, approaches us, to greet her compatriots. (There are nearly 20,000 Filipinos in Macau, some OFWs, others long-time residents.) We ask about the queue, and receive the equally unbelievable answer that these people are waiting for their rice ration.

This city is supposed to have one of the highest per capita incomes in Asia, but then it also has the highest population rate in the world.

The sacred

The Ruins of St. Paul's Church is another site that can't be missed, as it is Macau's most important landmark. What it actually is is just the façade of an old majestic construction—what remains of the 16th-century Jesuit church and college (Madre de Deus, the first Western-style university in the Far East) razed down by fire in 1835.

The façade has become the emblem of the city, incorporating in its religious statuary and high-relief ornamentation the motifs of various cultures and images illustrating the early days of the Church of Asia: Catholic iconography and symbolism, a Chinese dragon, a Japanese chrysanthemum, a Portuguese sailing vessel, pious warnings inscribed in Chinese.

Behind the façade is the Museum of Sacred Art and Crypt. The place is dank and damp, but for an hour we wander through its inner and outer walks, vaults and backdoors, marveling at such goodies there are here. Displayed are invaluable paintings, sculptures and church regalia of gold, silver, ivory and wood from the 16th century to the 19th century collected from all churches and convents in Macau.

But what truly awe us are the bones of the 17th-century Christian martyrs of Vietnam and Nagasaki. The mortal remains are contained in glass-covered decks of red-orange Italian marble, displayed in what was once the chancel of the church. From the upper balustrade we gawk, rendered breathless and abased when face to face with the sacred.

The Museum of Macau, a spitting distance from St. Paul's Ruins, is a must-see for any tourist. Forget about the gardens, discard the greyhound racing from your itinerary, if there's time constraint. This is the place where to begin.

The museum's three floors of dioramas and extravagant display of objects are an instructive showcase of the blending, symbiosis and coexistence of Eastern and Western civilizations, of the Portuguese and Chinese cultural traditions, usages, beliefs and habits—the two ways of life thriving in one place through the centuries.

Enormous bazaar

On Rua Central, formerly the city's commercial center, is St. Lawrence's Church, considered Macau's richest and most beautiful church for its decoration and display of objects. Built in the 19th century, the structure stands on the site of the original one of wood built in 1560, the oldest church in the Far East.

A few meters away, along the picturesque Rua do Padre António, is the ancient Lilau District, with those rows of small curio shops on the sloping street. This is a haven for souvenir-hunters, where you can get an interesting item at half its price in Manila (and this even if Macau's pataca is indexed to the Hong Kong dollar, which is roughly equivalent to P7).

But practically anywhere in this city is a haven for bargain-hunters. Remember that Macau is a free port, thus commodities are not subject to taxes or duties. Not to be missed are the jewelry of gold or pearl, the curios of jade or amber, Chinese antiques, glassware and porcelain, furniture. Highly recommended is the area between Rua dos Mercadores and Rua de São Paulo, the enormous bazaar of Old Macau.

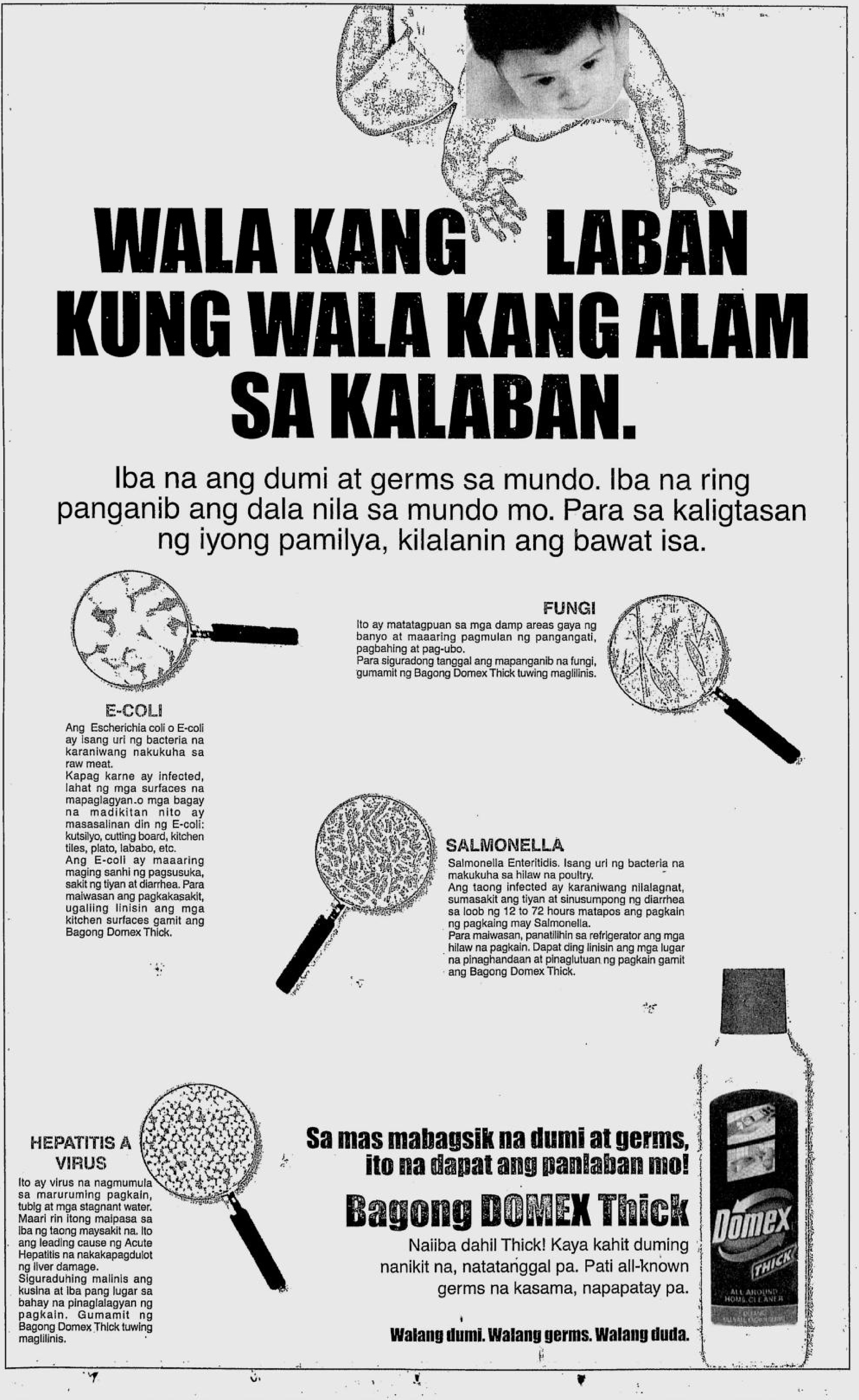
It should be wise to have a guide lead you to the factory outlets, shops and department stores selling the authentic items: clothes and textiles, shoes and watches, video cameras, electronic appliances. But for that, you can just board the ferry and cross the bay to Hong Kong, then come back in the afternoon. Or go to the Red Market, if you still have the energy.

Macanese cuisine is familiar to Filipinos because, aside from the fact that it is served in many restaurants in Manila, it is simply Chinese with a touch of the Portuguese, which has a parallel from our Spanish heritage. Macanese sausage, for instance, varies from *chorizo* Bilbao only in degrees of spiciness and sweetness.

The cuisine can also have touches of Thai, Malay, Indian, even African, from the various peoples who have

QUAINT/p.E5

TOURISTS pose in front of St. Paul's Church façade, the city's emblem



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E-COLI
Ang Escherichia coli o E-coli ay isang uri ng bacteria na karaniwang nakukuha sa raw meat.
Kapag karne ay infected, lahat ng mga surfaces na mapaglagyan o mga bagay na madikitan nito ay masasalinan din ng E-coli: kutsilyo, cutting board, kitchen tiles, plato, lababo, etc.
Ang E-coli ay maaaring maging sanhi ng pagsusuka, sakit ng tiyan at diarrhea. Para maiwasan ang pagkakasakit, ugaliing linisin ang mga kitchen surfaces gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.

FUNGI
Ito ay matatagpuan sa mga damp areas gaya ng banyo at maaaring pagmulan ng pangangati, pagbahing at pag-ubo.
Para siguradong tanggal ang mapanganib na fungi, gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.

SALMONELLA
Salmonella Enteritidis. Isang uri ng bacteria na makukuha sa hilaw na poultry.
Ang taong infected ay karaniwang nilalagnat, sumasakit ang tiyan at sinusumpong ng diarrhea sa loob ng 12 to 72 hours matapos ang pagkain ng pagkaing may Salmonella.
Para maiwasan, panatilihin sa refrigerator ang mga hilaw na pagkain. Dapat ding linisin ang mga lugar na pinaghandaan at pinaglutuan ng pagkain gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.

HEPATITIS A VIRUS
Ito ay virus na nagmumula sa maruruming pagkain, tubig at mga stagnant water. Maari rin itong maipasa sa iba ng taong maysakit na. Ito ang leading cause ng Acute Hepatitis na nakakapagdulot ng liver damage.
Siguraduhing malinis ang kusina at iba pang lugar sa bahay na pinaglalagyan ng pagkain. Gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.

Sa mas mabagsik na dumi at germs,
ito na dapat ang panlaban mo!
Bagong DOMEX Thick
Naiiba dahil Thick! Kaya kahit duming nanikit na, natatanggal pa. Pati all-known germs na kasama, napapatay pa.

Walang dumi. Walang germs. Walang duda.

ANCIENT canons at Fortaleza da Barra

Quaint jewel on Pearl River

(From page E4)

settled in this friendly place. Most of the ingredients, however, can be found in any well-stocked *talipapa*.

In Pousada de São Tiago, a five-star hotel converted from a 17th-century fort, the antipasto served us is our ordinary charcoal-broiled sardine, the humble *tamban* presented as haute cuisine. The *bacalhau* fried rice, of course, is our *sinangag* flecked with flakes of *tuyo*.

Crown of the city

We have have a surfeit of authentic Chinese cuisine in Hotel Lisboa, where the array of dim sum is extremely varied, and a bowl of congee is served with dozens of choices of accompaniments.

Just as sumptuous is Lisboa's structure, an architectural wonder that, for want of a phrase, we'd call Oriental baroque, or baroque Orientalia, whatever. Fully lighted at night, it might as well be the bejeweled crown of the city.

On the ground-floor lobby is displayed encased in glass the biggest solid-jade statue of the Buddha, the bulk of the body intricately carved with tiny figures and bas-relief depicting scenes from the holy man's life.

Then there is the hotel's four-story casino (half of it located underground), the city's biggest and most frenetic. We spend most of the evening gaping at the ceiling, craning our necks at the expanse of floor, in our breathtaking descent into the gaming halls.

Macau has 10 casinos, offering "probably the widest range of games in the world, including baccarat, blackjack, roulette, boule, big-and-small (the Chinese traditional game *dai-siu*), *fan-tan*, and, of course, hundreds of the most glittering array of slot machines anywhere (the locals call them 'hungry tigers')." The casinos operate 24 hours a day, every day of the week, except during typhoons.

What we find here, however, are not only the casinos. A Filipino, who works as a janitor in the hotel, guides us to the bowels of the building to discover the underground flesh trade.

It's like a large arcade or a colonnaded walk underground. We wend our way through corridors and around columns, and find men and women in shadowy corners talking in undertone, or coyly eyeing one another. One area has human figures that look suspiciously like transvestites.

The profane

In one hall, we ask the porter for some information. Suddenly, two rows of doors facing one another open, and a bevy of international beauties steps out, in décolletage, bikini or negligée, beaming and provocatively posing at each door.

There are Chinese, Malays, *mestizas* and Caucasians. The porter introduces them, from which countries they come from, and what they can do. We gawk, smile nervously, and excuse ourselves. The women go back to their cubicles, and the series of numerous doors close.

Gambling and the flesh trade are no longer an underground economy in these parts, as they're the lifeblood of the tourism industry. Forty-one percent of the city's gross domestic product comes from tourism, of which 21 percent is from the casinos.

On Dec. 20, 1999, Portugal handed Macau over to the People's Republic of China, two years after the Hong Kong handover by the British to the Chinese. Despite the communist rhetoric, however, those blatant manifestations of capitalism the government is loath to eradicate.

Toward midnight, we walk the deserted streets, peering into dim alleys and a few open shops. We wander in the area around Avenida de Amizade, looking for action.

On the sidewalk, a group of Caucasian blondes and brunettes in glistening black leather shorts, jackets or mini skirts are striding down toward us. Glances are exchanged. On an island in the middle of the street, right at the junction of traffic lights, another group is negotiating with two men.

They are Slavic beauties. But why are they here? Why would they fly half a world away to ply these streets? Because this is where the bars and casinos are, therefore, rampant with big spenders.

One old building bills itself as a pleasure dome, with floorshows, saunas and assorted activities from floor to floor. We take the elevator to the sixth floor, and talk shyly to the porter, while glancing over his shoulders at the sinuous shadows in the reddish light in the background.

After a peek at the door, we back down. This promises to be more lurid than the first. But we still have to do some shopping the next day prior to our flight to Manila.

And this is where the tourist and the traveler part ways.

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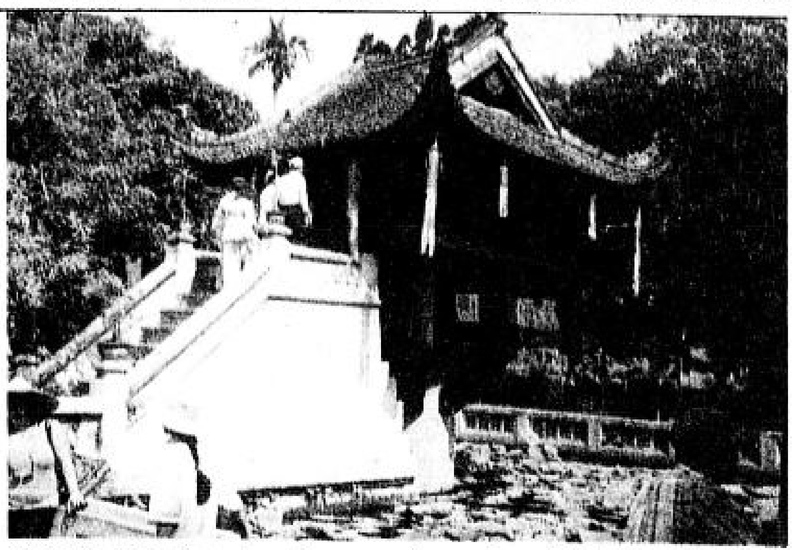


ONE-PILLAR Pagoda, where couples go to wish for a child

Exhilarated in Ha Noi

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ANNE A. JAMBORA

The clean air, lakes, colonial-style houses, bargain enclaves, and even the reckless bikers make a visit to Vietnam's capital worth it

A LONG, long time ago, in a land that had yet to be explored by humans, the king dragon of Lac Bird Clan, Lac Long Quan, met a lovely fairy, Au Co. They fell in love, married and bore many children. Today, their ancestors, 78 million Vietnamese, stand proud and defiant, vulnerable yet strong, determined yet flexible. The dragon gave them will power, the fairy her grace. That's a legend, of course, like Filipinos have Malakas and Maganda.

Northern Vietnam, the cradle of the country's capital, Ha Noi City, is both beguiling and intriguing—a quaint and mystifying land rich in cultural and historical heritage and, yes, legends that regale our curiosity with childlike wonderment.

There are legends of mythical dragons ascending from its waters (Chinese dragons are usually portrayed descending from the sky and spewing fire), or of a large and elusive marine mammal called Tarasque, Vietnam's version of Loch Ness, lurking beneath the waters of Ha Long Bay. But more on that later.

Filipino travelers, however, must brace themselves for a really long trip. Since there is no direct flight from Manila to Ha Noi City, tourists have to stop over in Ho Chi Minh City after a 2½-hour flight, tow their baggage toward the domestic airport, and wait for almost three hours before boarding the flight to Ha Noi, which takes another two hours. Upon arrival at the Nao Bai International Airport, it's another 45-minute ride to Ha Noi City.

That's half a day spent on traveling alone. Sure, it's exhausting, especially if you have to be at the Naia at 4:30 a.m. only to arrive at Ha Noi past 3 p.m. (which was what happened to us). But it is well worth it if delving deep into the colorful culture and history of a people is your thing.

Although the long stretch of rice fields were reminiscent of the bucolic Philippine countryside, locals who plow the fields or ride bicycles wear the ubiquitous yet charming conical hat—a blunt reminder that, indeed, home was miles away.

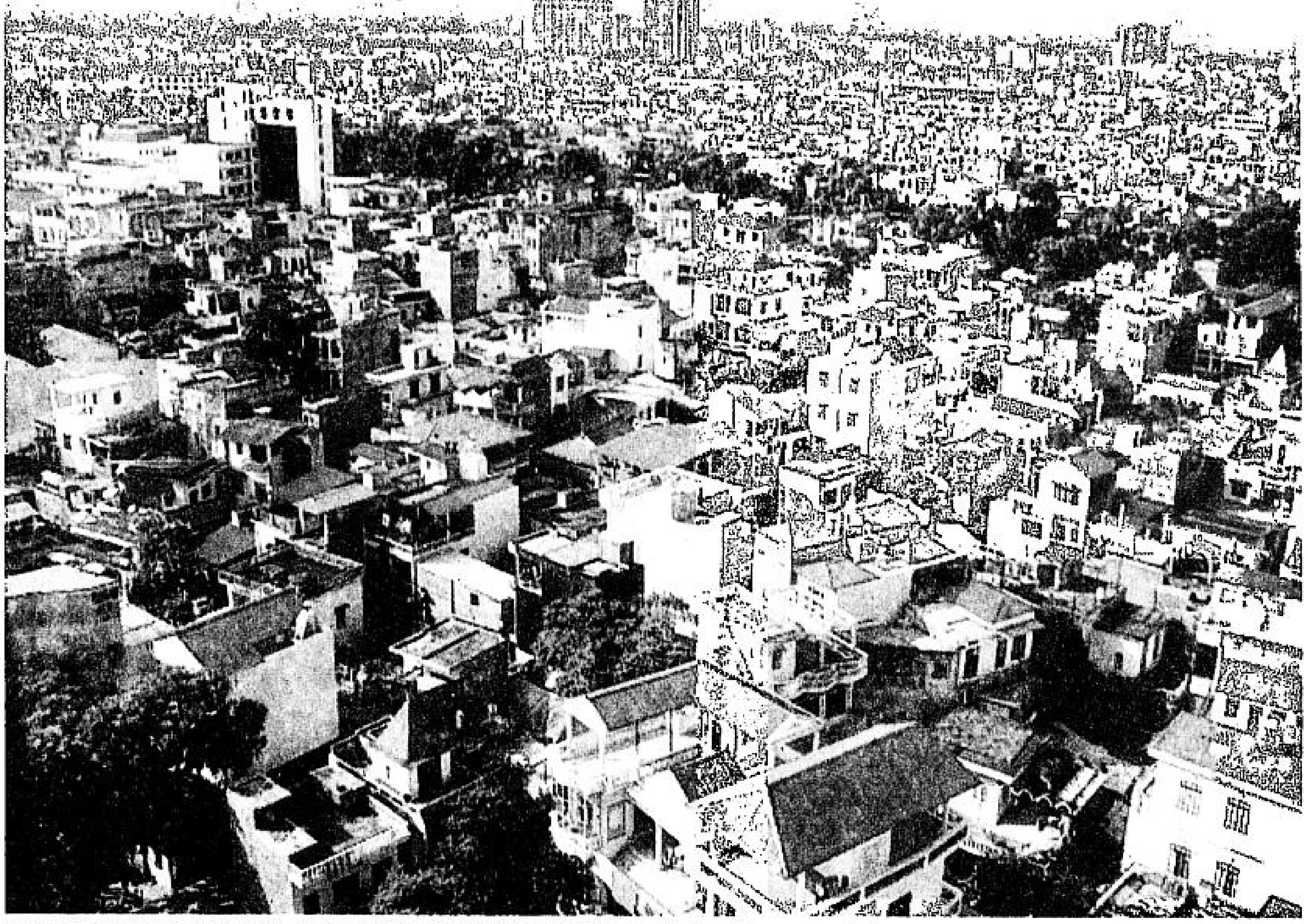
Clean city air

Ha Noi takes pride in its centuries-old traditions and destinations. The landmarks came from the time when the Chinese ruled this rustic part of Vietnam. Ha Noi, too, has colonial French homes and modern skyscrapers. The city is an interesting fusion of East and West. Women don the traditional *ao dai* with matching conical hats. Yuppie men are in coat and tie.

Meaning "inside river" (*ha* is "river"; *noi*, "inside"), Ha Noi is so-called because the city is surrounded by two major lakes—Ho Tay (West Lake) and Song Hong (Red River)—and is home to 14 beautiful lakes, all natural save for two.

Traffic is not a problem, especially if our yardstick is the infamous Manila rush hour, so most of the city's attractions can be viewed in half-a-day's time. Common means of transportation are motorbikes and bicycles, a habit Vietnamese probably picked up from the French. There's a *xich lo*, their version of a *pedicab* good for two really petite passengers; good for one, well, big passenger. There are occasional buses that ply the roads, almost always near empty since everyone owns a bike, and a trickle of cars, too, but none of them emit toxic smoke. In Ha Noi City, the locals take in the clean and crisp air—a luxury rarely found in many major cities around the world. And trees line all of Ha Noi's narrow roads.

POTTERY is a meticulous craft.



MODERN HIGH-RISES AND CANDY-COLORED DWELLINGS. Ha Noi's picturesque skyline

Crossing the streets can pose a problem for the uninitiated. The streets, depending on location and time, can be teemed with about 100 motorists absorbed in their own businesses—too engrossed, in fact, that they seem unmindful of pedestrians. Drivers look straight ahead, swish-swoosh in whichever direction they can squeeze their motorbikes or bicycles into, and only stop for a split second when their fender is an inch or so away from the vehicle in front of them—in some cases, a few inches from a pedestrian.

When we asked our tour guide, Saigontourist's Pham Van Hoan, how to get from Point A to Point B across the street, his nonchalant reply was, "Just walk." So walk we did, raising our arms occasionally to signal motorists to please, please, slow down (which they always did), and wishing we'd checked our medical insurance if it covered overseas accidents.

For hardcore adventurers, cars, motorbikes and bicycles can be rented with or without a tour guide, and in various models as well—from lenden Chinese road warriors to high-tech mountain bikes to luxury cars. Naturally, a driver's license is required. Wearing a helmet is advised. Unfortunately, it doesn't come with the rent. It's "BYOH—bring your own helmet."

Sons of Mandarins

Our first stop was Vietnam's first university, founded in 1070 by Emperor Ly Thanh Tong. Formerly called the School of Elite Nation, it is now known as the Temple of Literature. On these grounds the sons of Mandarins, the ruling people at that time, studied and deliberated on Confucian philosophy, and were taught to live in accordance to his teachings.

Dividing the complex is a central path called Confucian Middle Path. Within the complex are five courtyards, which a student must pass to gain entry except for the first one, Entrance to the Way. Mandarins then need only dismount their horses to enter its gates.

But things get rough after that. To enter the second courtyard, the Great Middle Gate, students must accomplish virtue and talent—or today, pay a few for the entrance fee. When a student has gained excellence in literary expression, he is now ready to enter the Constellation of Literature Pavilion that leads to the third courtyard, the Garden of Stelae.

In the Garden of Stelae are names of graduates inscribed in Chinese on the backs of stone turtles, which symbolize long life. There are 82 stelae, from 1442-1779, each bearing names, birthplace and scholastic records. It's a solemn ground far away from the noise of city life, and today a group of Vietnamese occasionally meet behind the stone turtles to debate on issues, perhaps to recapture the spirit of great intellectual minds that once walked through these walls.

The fourth courtyard, known as the Courtyard of Sages, is a small temple where students make an offering to the great teacher, Chu Van An (1233-1370), whose icon rests in the middle. Beyond is another courtyard, School for the Sons of the Nations, where a statue of Confucius stands amid dorms and classrooms.

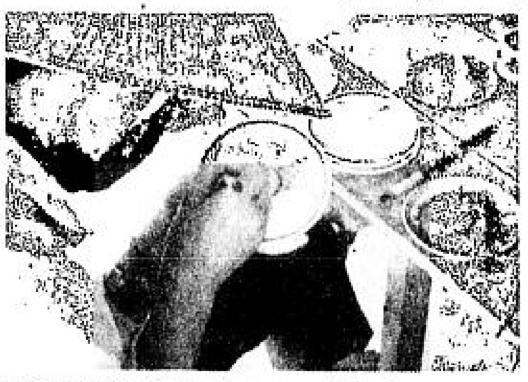
GARDEN OF STELAE. Vietnam's first scholars studied Confucian philosophy here.

Old Uncle Ho

Within the concrete cubicle of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum lies the Vietnam's most revered leader, who, despite his request to be cremated after death, was embalmed and is now guarded by soldiers in bleached-white uniforms—at the front, back and sides of the building. There's no entrance fee, but the place is closed from October to November because "it needs to be properly preserved," said Hoan.

Still, it's amazing how tourists—mostly locals—line up to see Old Uncle Ho's former domain. Seen as the liberator of Vietnam from colonialism, it's no wonder only his image is printed on every paper bill, regardless of value.

A few meters from the mausoleum is Ho Chi Minh's "presidential palace" painted in picturesque mustard-yellow and constructed in elegant French architecture. And a few more steps ahead stands the Stilt House where he lived from 1958 till the time of his death in 1969. The house was designed in the fashion of Vietnam's ethnic minorities' dwellings, and around it is a well-tended garden.



FINE ART. Ceramics are skillfully handpainted with intricate designs.

THE TRADITIONAL conical hat is as ubiquitous as the street vendors that roam the sidewalks.

Everything is kept just as Ho left it—his bedroom, his study, his pond (Hoan said one of his favorite pastimes was fishing), etc. "He was a chain-smoker who never married and never had any children. But before he died his message to the youth was—get married and have children, and do not smoke," Hoan said. Today, some of the office buildings surrounding his residence and office have been converted to shops selling Ho Chi Minh souvenirs.

Dreams of Buddha

A few kilometers ahead, or a five-minute ride later, we were taken to the legendary One-Pillar Pagoda. As its name implies, the pagoda is only supported by one pillar in the middle of a pond. Stairs are located at the center for people to go up, say their prayers and make an offering.

Legends have it that a childless man once dreamed that Buddha gave him boy. A few months later, his wife sired him a son. So to commemorate his son's birth and to give thanks to Buddha, he built this pagoda almost 1,000 years ago.

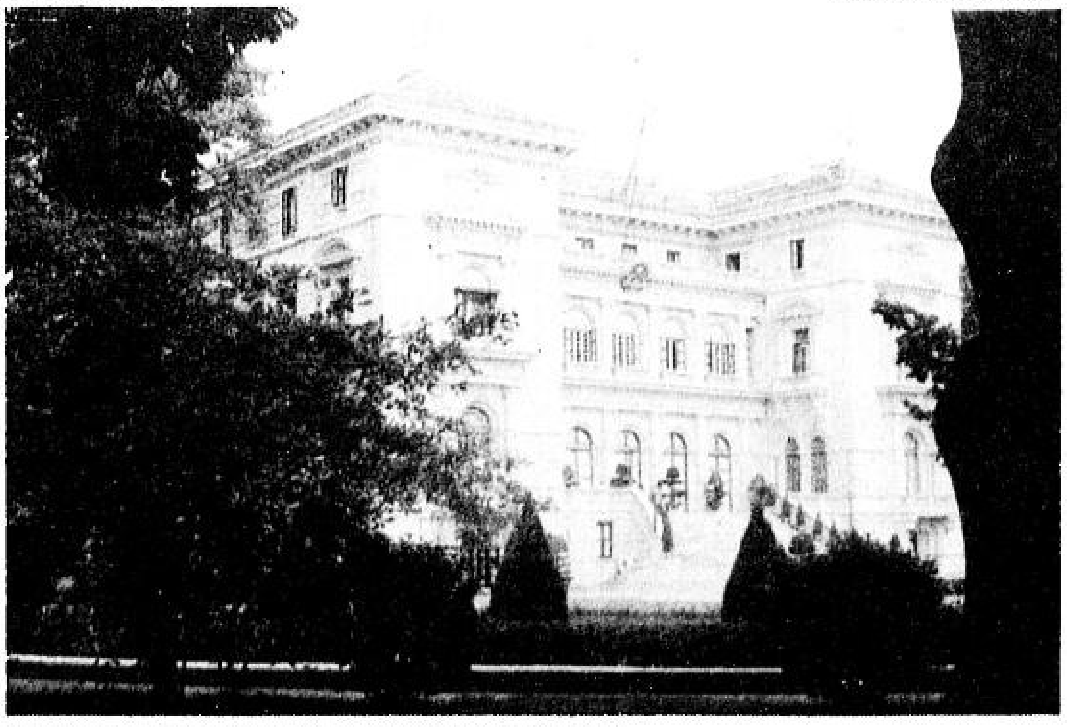
Today, childless couples visit this pagoda to pray for a child, preferably a son. Although not exactly a solemn place to pray, what with all the tourists taking pictures and talking loudly all over the place, the place still attract desperate couples who make their offerings. "Maybe it works, maybe it doesn't," Hoan said. After all, legends are legends—magic and fairy tales. Facts are, well, often too harsh.

Unique shopping

In the heart of the city lies one of Ha Noi's oldest districts, bustling and thriving for more than 1,000 years. In the 13th century, artisan guilds, each with respective skills and specialties, established themselves around its 36 streets. Each of them took different streets, depending on what they had to offer. And so the shopping district was born.

This is the Old Quarters, and to this day it is still Ha Noi's shopping mecca. The hubbub—noise, traffic, haggling—is similar to our Divisoria. But this is really Ha Noi's counterpart to modern shopping malls. Instead of

EXHILARATED/p.E7



THE BUILDING where Ho Chi Minh once held office

Exhilarated in Ha Noi

(From page E6)

walking in impersonal, air-conditioned walls, the Old Quarters gives shoppers a glimpse of culture, tradition and history, and a breath of fresh air. And, take heart, cash-less shoppers, credit cards are accepted here, too.

The streets are named after products traditionally sold here, such as Silk Street, Rice Street, Boil Fish Street, Jewel Street, etc. But Onion Street no longer offers onions. It is now known as Coffee Street since bars, cafés and merchants selling coffee beans line the street. Then there's Counterfeit Street, where ghost money are sold and burned at Buddhist ceremonies for good luck.

Little of the Old Quarters has changed since the 15th century. As long as tourists know where to look, everything is here, including genuine and fake labels, old and new "antiques," *ao dais*, etc.—from headstones to paintings to traditional medicines like snake wines replete with cobras of all sizes, which is said to cure lumbago, arthritis and sweat of limbs. (The wine, which tastes more like brandy, is quite slimy and thick in texture, with traces of herbs and spices. And its flavor, the slippery feel of the liquid, lingers really long in the mouth.)

There are also street vendors in conical hats slinging on their shoulders all types of goodies—from fruits to vegetables to souvenirs and books. And, yes, the persistent vendor is around as well, following every nook and cranny; they don't give up even after the buyers have boarded the car and it has started to move away. The thing is, the longer they tail you, the lower the prices become. During our visit, for instance, a book, initially priced at $12, went down to an eye-popping $1.

Descending dragon

The following day we took a three-hour ride to Ha Long, a city further up north, the home of 1994 Unesco World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay. The name Ha Long means "where the dragon descends into the sea" (*ha*, "river"; *long*, "dragon"). If we have our hundred islands, some of which even disappear during high tide. Vietnam has more—a lot more.

Amid the hazy air of Ha Long Bay on the Gulf of Bac Bo are majestic natural monuments of limestone islands carved to exquisite shapes and sizes some 10 million years ago. The result is ethereal—all 3,000 islands within a 1,500 sq km area. Now that's the scientific story.

Legends, however, say a great dragon once lived in the mountains of Ha Long. When it ran toward the coast, its lashing tail formed mountains that peek above the sea as rocky islands. And then there's Tarasque. Like Scotland's Loch Ness, it is so elusive no one has actually taken a photo of it. Locals, however, claim to have sighted this gigantic marine mammal.

The four-hour boat ride around its calm waters is perfect for soul-searching. Still, when in a large group, it's a great way to party as rented boats have its own kitchen, rest rooms and, for others, cabins, too, for overnight tours. They cook and serve food, and have an ample supply of drinks—from sodas to beers to wines. There are fascinating floating villages (one floating house even has a pet dog) and boat merchants on some areas, but most of the rock islands inhabit eagles and monkeys.

Celestial cave

Before docking, we made a brief stop to a glorious cave called Heaven Palace. Hoan said the cave opened to the public two years ago after making the place tourist-friendly—constructing stairs inside and outside the cave, hooking up lights, etc.

It takes about 50 arduous steps toward the cave's entrance. Not that we were not physically fit to do the task, but because the steps were narrow—designed for small feet—and steep. (The Vietnamese are short and slim in built. We never found a potbellied man or wobbly woman the entire time we were there. Really.)

Near its entrance, the smell earth in the cold, moist and thick air greeted our nostrils, as caves always do. But once inside, nature in its lustrous splendor gleamed before our eyes. What sight, what glory, what enormous body of works the heavens has for us mere mortals! Lights in varying shades of blue and yellow magnified the rugged structures of stalagmites and stalactites, endowing art to the interesting irregular figures.

But then another challenging task awaited us at the exit, when winding steps going down were equally steep and narrow as the steps going up. In fact, one of us opted to go on all fours in one of the bents, but for a size 9 person (feet, that is), going down sideways worked as well. But it was a really long walk back to the shore where our boat was docked, which was a most welcome vision when we finally got there.

Fine pottery

On our way back to Ha Noi City, we stopped by a dainty town that specializes in pottery. This town, small as it is, has a "mini hotel"—a three-story building constructed on about 20-plus square feet of land. On its roadsides, ceramic pottery of all shapes and sizes are bristling.

Hoan took us to the Dong Trieu Chinaware Enterprise on Km 56 Xuan Son, Dong Trieu, Quang Ninh. (That's somewhere between Ha Noi and Ha Long City, since it took as an hour-and-a-half to get there.) They employ about 40 skillful workers and talented ceramics painters, and produce unique ornate pottery.

It takes two days for the ceramics to dry, 15 days to polish and another 15 days to paint. For such a meticulous craft, the intricate artworks of the finished products are aesthetic. And what's best is they're for sale, even better is that they're cheap—from $1 up, but be prepared to bargain. Prices that start from $8 can go as low as $4, with an extra gift at that.

Ha Noi and Ha Long, two enchanting places with charming locals in lovely conical hats, caught in the web of legends and bustling economy, between past and present. And good bargains, too. "Madam, you like?" a vendor hopefully inquired, flashing her wares before our eyes. They will sorely be missed.

The tour was arranged by the Network of Independent Travel Agencies' president Robert Lim Joseph with Vietnam Airlines. Call Dax Travel and Tour at 825-8743 or River Travel at 833-2551

E-mail the author at splat_blag@excite.com

PASSENGER boats at Ha Long Bay proudly carry the Vietnam flag.

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Gladiator Wars is a single and dual-player game. With each battle, you can choose to be a lion, a cobra or a gladiator. Each victory is 30 points. Each loss costs 20 points. Draws earn 10 points for each player.

DUDE RANGER:
The west is as wild as ever. And spats between outlaws and lawmen have reached boiling point. The Sheriff is six feet under, and that leaves you to deal with the desperados.

Dude Ranger is a single and dual-player game. You can be an Outlaw or a Deputy, it's your choice. A successful hit on your opponent wins the game and earns you 200 points. Get hit and it will cost you the same.

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Send to 288.
You will receive a confirmation of your registration

How to play Vampire Slayer:
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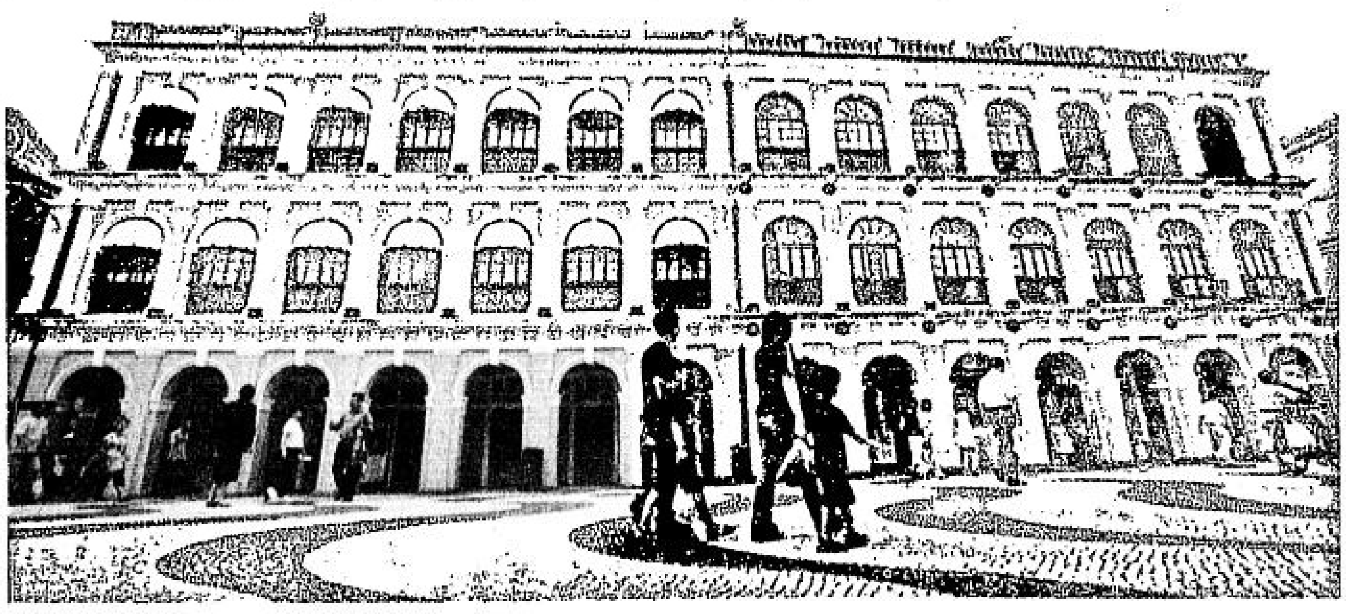
Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Gladiator Wars:
Type GW PLAY to play Gladiator Wars
Send to 288
Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Dude Ranger:
Type DR PLAY to play Dude Ranger.
Send to 288
Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

For more instructions on how to play, type<game keyword> HELP and send to 288. Ex. VS HELP.

SMART Simply Amazing!



COLONIAL structure at Largo Do Senado

DOWNTOWN Macau shopping complex

Quaint jewel on Pearl River

By Constantino C. Tejero
Photos By Edwin Tuyay

A GULF exists between the tourist and the traveler.

The tourist wants to see the beauty spots and significant landmarks of a place, and demands comfort at every step, good food, excellent hotel accommodations, the gleaming surface of things. The traveler would go the extra mile to know the character of the place.

(Good travel writing can be found in the works of Paul Theroux and Pico Iyer. Excellent tourism writing can be found in brochures and broadsheet supplements.)

Of Macau, for instance, any self-respecting tourist wouldn't claim he or she has seen this small Portuguese-colonial Chinese city unless he or she has breezed through its gardens and museums, the churches and temples, the shopping centers and food courts, the races and the festivals, the casinos, of course.

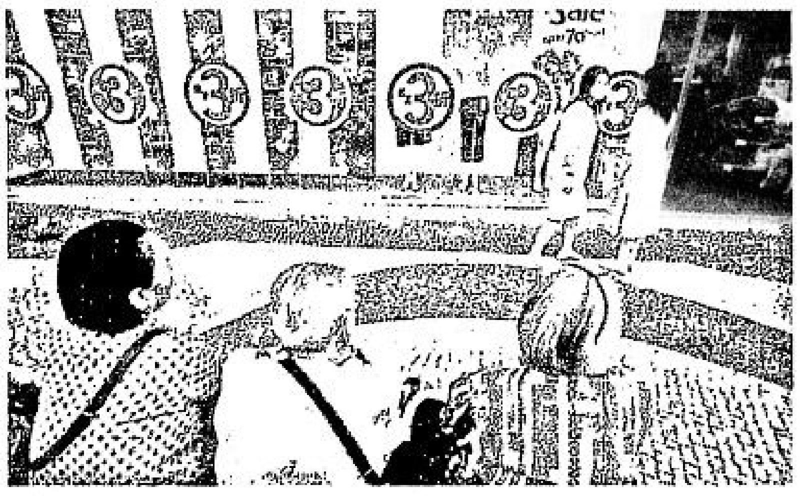
The traveler, in his or her lonely trek or by twos, would comb these, too, but would risk safety and comfort to descend to the murkier depths.

Called the Water Lily Peninsula by the ancient Chinese, this quaint city on the western bank of Pearl River attracts both traveler and tourist. "Quaint," because this is a point where East truly meets West.

Yet, as the Macau Government Tourist Office guide book notes, the mixture of Chinese and Portuguese cultures has been harmoniously maintained and developed by its people, making this place a specific cultural entity. The oddity extends to the fact that, unlike the surrounding regions, it has not known war in almost five centuries of history.

QUAINT/p.E4

TIRED shoppers



THE OLD watching the young go by.

Heny Sison

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

December 1 (Saturday) 9:30-1:30 p.m. P1,200 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Frosting, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing and Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

December 3 (Monday) 9:00-12:00 noon P1,200 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES by: Heny Sison *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, Rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar

December 3 (Monday) 1:30-5:00 p.m. P1,200 CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison *Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Otmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies

December 4 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:30 p.m. P1,200 BAKING II by: Heny Sison *Ube-Butter Cake, Sour Cream Pound Cake, Walnut Pie, Cheesecake Tart, Crema de Fruta and Ensaymada

December 5 (Wednesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 PATTIES & TURNOVERS by: Jill Sandique, Chef/Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Indian Samosas, Jamaican Beef Patties, Cuban Empanadas, Chicken Mushroom Turnover & Stromboli plus bonus recipe.

December 6 (Thursday) 9:00-3:00 p.m. P1,200 EASTERN MEDITTERANEAN PASTRIES by: Jill Sandique *Festive Baklava, Filo Pastry Roll Stuffed with Ground Almonds, Israeli Orange Nut Cake, Spice Yogurt Cake, Moroccan Sesame Seeds Biscuits, Kichlachs & Baklava with Sesame Seeds, Pistachio and Raisins

December 7 (Friday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison *French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Créme Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake

December 8 (Saturday) 9:00-4:00 p.m. P1,500 BASIC BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP I by: Heny Sison *Learn a variety of breads using a sweet dough such as Pan de Sal, Cinnamon Roll, Adobo Roll, Cheese Roll & Dinner Roll

December 10 (Monday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P2,000 BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer *Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for wedding. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

December 11 (Tuesday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P2,000 SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca *Learn different styles of table arrangement and home decors. Demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

December 12 (Wednesday) 9:30-4:00 p.m. P2,000 FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES By: Glenn Remorca *Make fresh floral arrangement for birthdays, baptismal, anniversaries in different styles and materials. Sourcing of materials included. Demo and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

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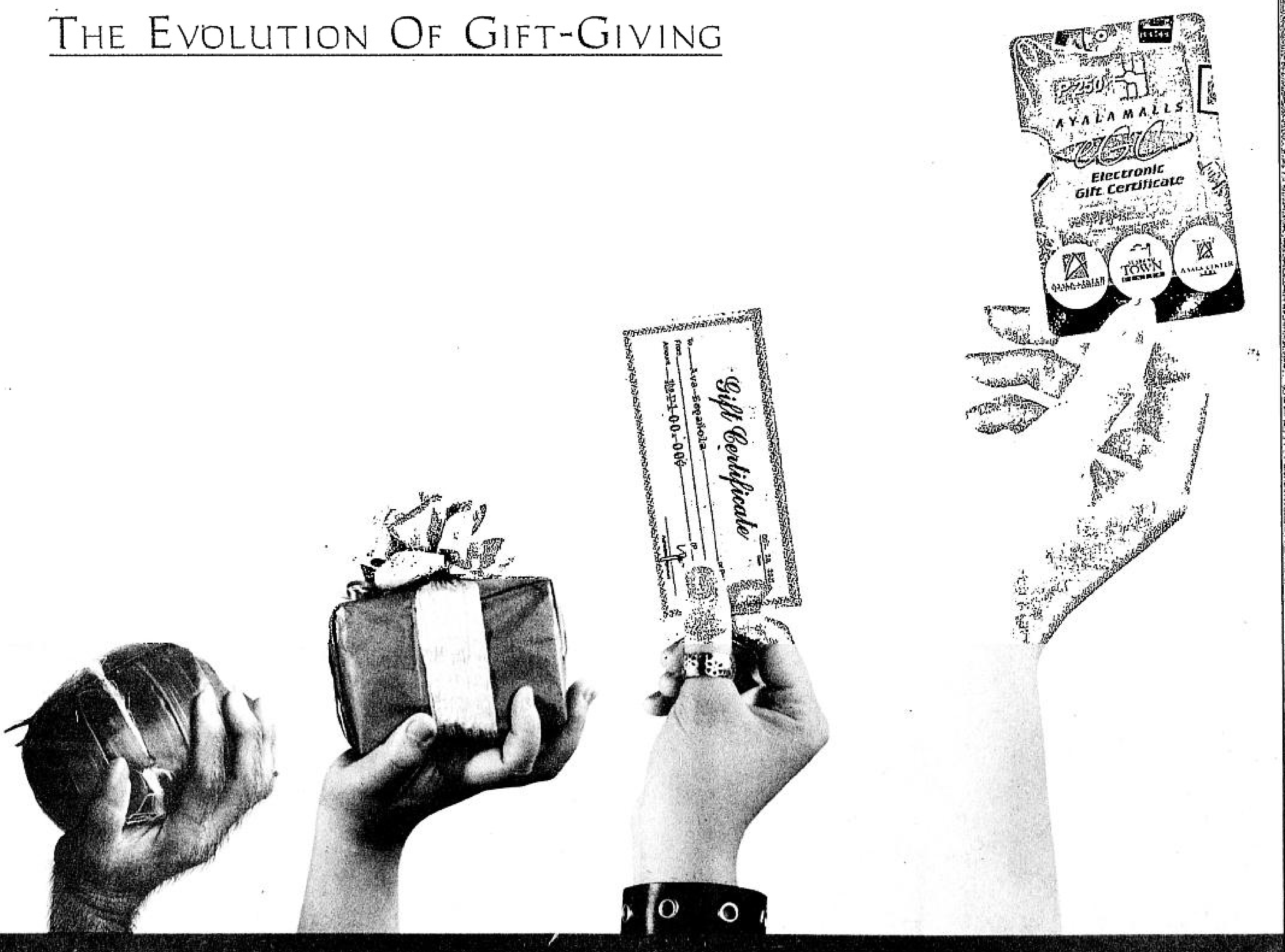
THE EVOLUTION OF GIFT-GIVING



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Clocking in style

Wristwatches are a girl's best friends, especially if they're diamond-encrusted

By Tim Yap
Photos by Johnny Villena

EARLY on in the night, a huge crowd of partyphiles and hip seekers had gathered inside the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula to witness the metamorphosis of that sought-after chi-chi trendy timepiece, TechnoMarine.

So what was really the allure of this watch that was splashed on the pages of foreign fashion magazines last year? Was it the fact that celebrities had worn its diamond-encrusted pieces all over the world, therefore giving it that hipper-than-thou image? Or maybe being a diver's

CLOCKING/p.F4

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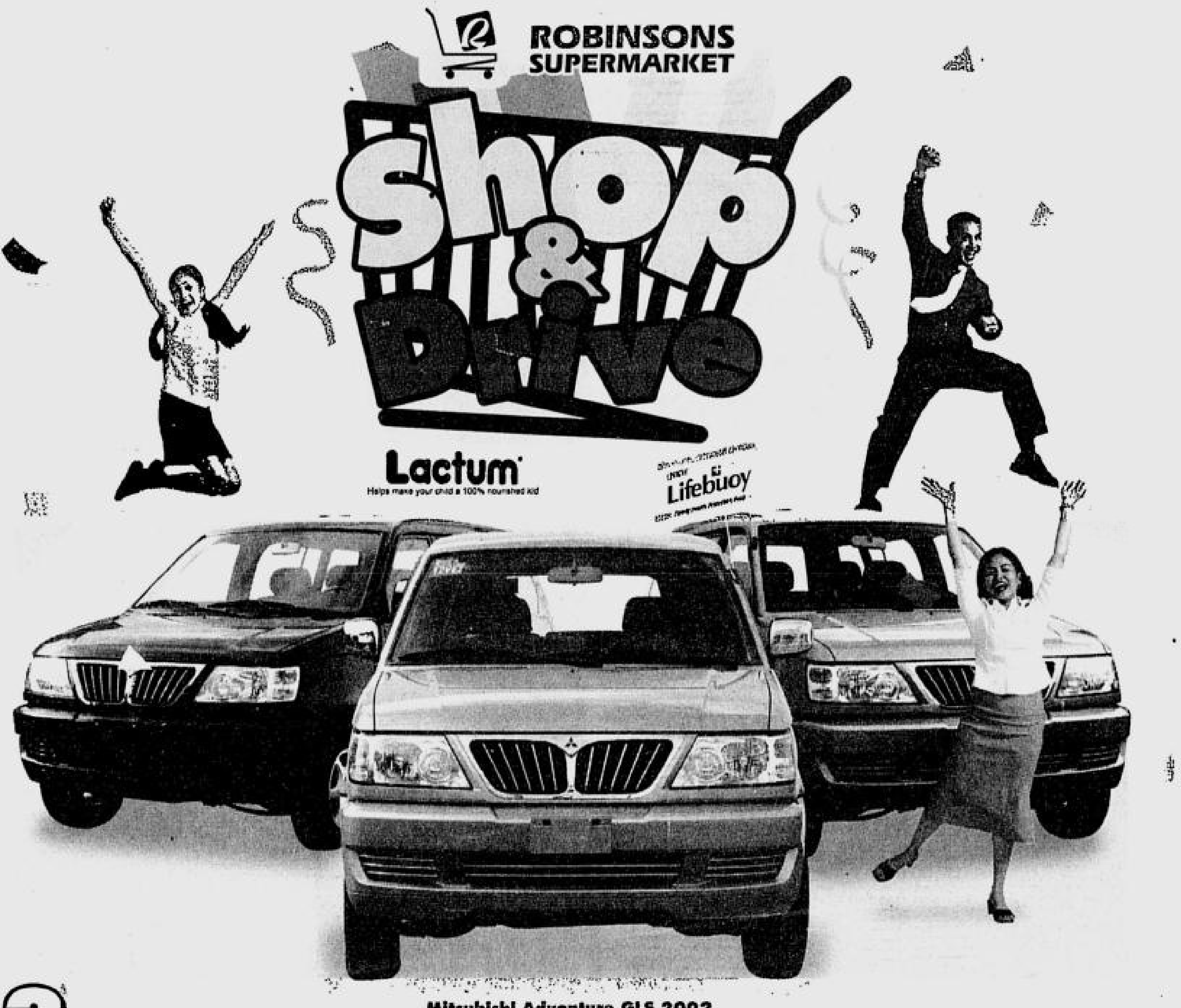

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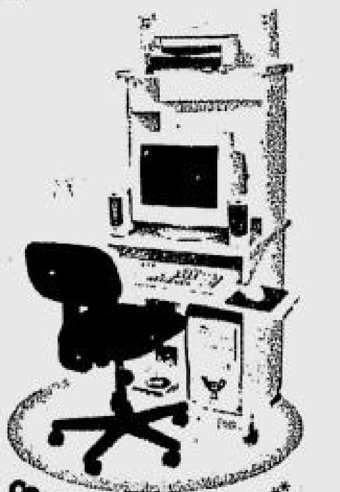
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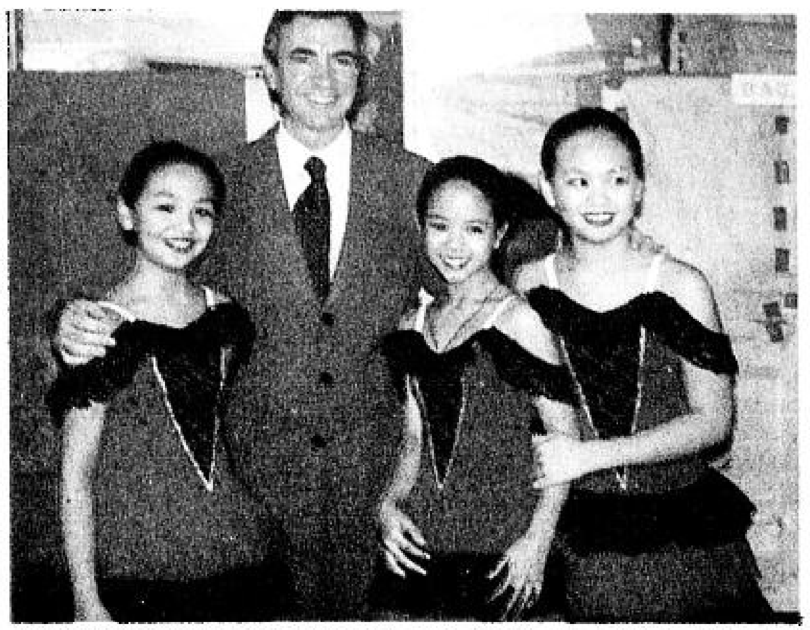
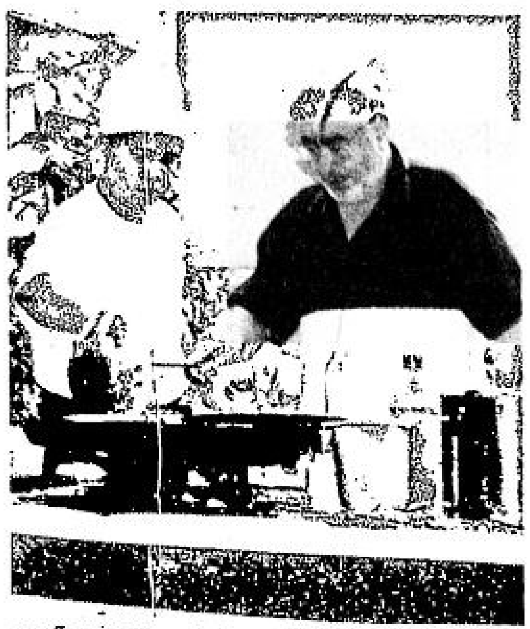


SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Pantoja Rodriguez with three Poveda students: Nicole Adarme, Kara and Gaby Mendoza



SEÑOR Alba of Casa Alba (paella cooking demonstration)

Month-long festivities marked Spanish National Day

THE SPANISH Embassy, with the Instituto Cervantes, celebrated Spanish National Day on Oct. 12 with festivities throughout the month of October.

The National Day of Spain is celebrated by Spanish communities throughout the world.

It was in October that the three caravels, said to be the first leg of an expedition that enabled the Spaniards to discover the islands on the other side of the Atlantic, arrived in the New World.

The long process of wine-making also begins in October. Aging wine has been compared to the evolution of culture. It does not happen overnight.

The Poveda Learning Center also celebrated its own Dia de la Hispanidad on Oct. 24. Founded by a Spaniard (Padre Poveda), the girls' school was originally run by Spanish nuns (Teresianas) and is now managed by Teresiana lay teachers. It is the only school where Spanish is part of the curriculum from kindergarten to fourth-year high school.

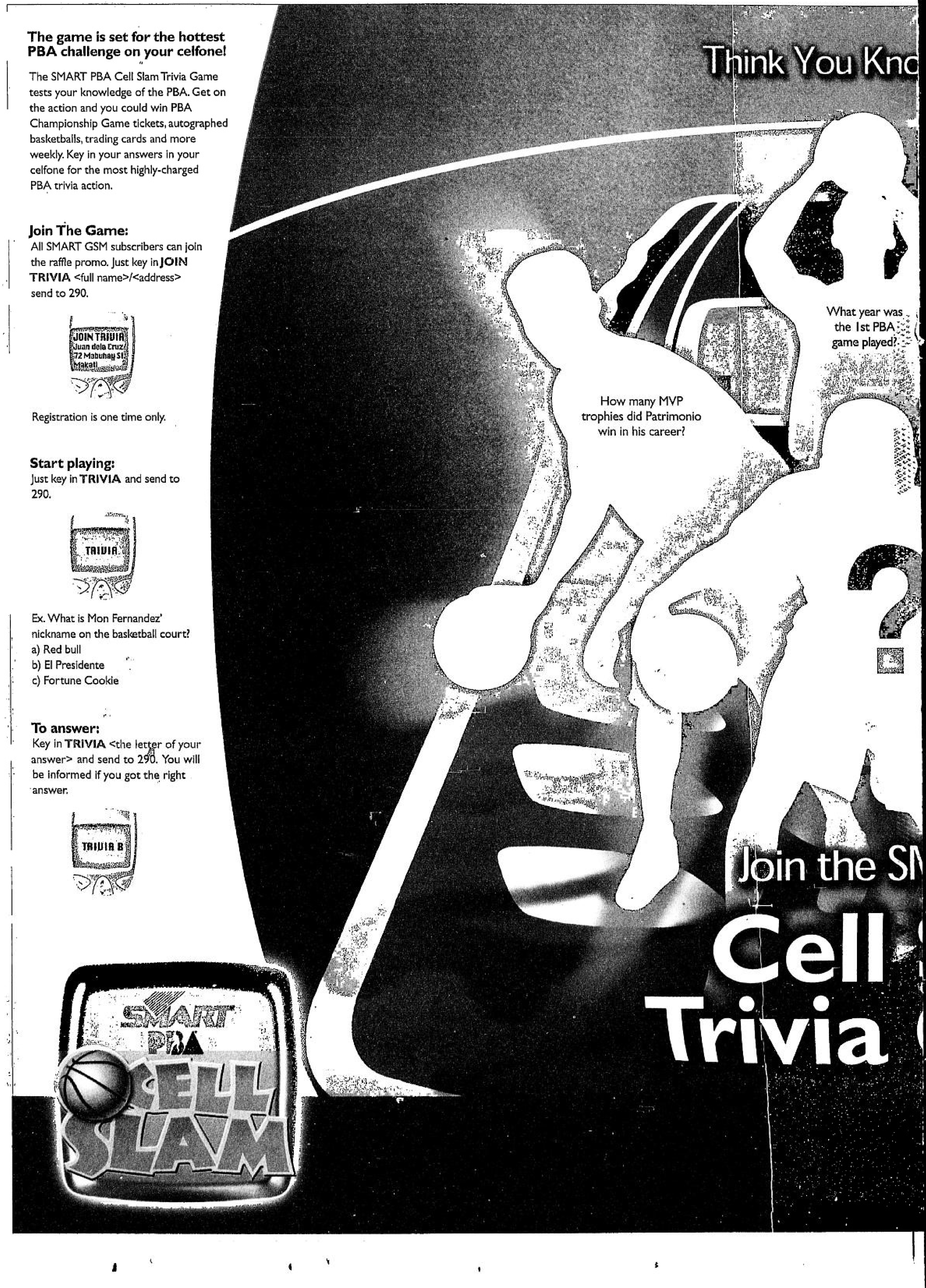
The Spanish committee at Poveda headed by Pablo and Marilou Garcia-Morera planned all the activities with the help of the Poveda Parents Association.

The celebration started with a visit by Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja Rodriguez and the two directors of the Instituto Cervantes: Paco de Blas and Angel Gonzalez Lara, who collaborated with the parents association headed by Francis and Sylvia Sobrevinas in putting up the exhibit depicting Spanish culture and arts.

Spanish films were shown and the students performed Flamenco dances. Perla Primicias, a former Poveda mother, led Flamenco dancing by adults that followed.

Highlight of the activities was a food festival featuring Spanish dishes and delicacies served by such restaurants as Casa Armas, Casa Alba, Dulcinea, Iberico and Sabroso. *Zumos* and *sangria* were served by the Espa-Fil Import-Export. Señor Alba of the restaurant bearing his name held a cooking demonstration and allowed mothers and teachers to learn the secret of his famous *paella*.

FLAMENCO dancer



The game is set for the hottest PBA challenge on your celfone!

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Registration is one time only.

Start playing:
Just key in **TRIVIA** and send to 290.

Ex. What is Mon Fernandez' nickname on the basketball court?
a) Red bull
b) El Presidente
c) Fortune Cookie

To answer:
Key in **TRIVIA** <the letter of your answer> and send to 290. You will be informed if you got the right answer.

TRIVIA B
Think You Kno
What year was the 1st PBA game played?
How many MVP trophies did Patrimonio win in his career?
?
Join the SM
Cell
Trivia
SMART PBA CELL SLAM

Unusual collaborators score major hit

MEGA Magazine and Publications Inc. chair Jerry Tui presents the Plaque of Appreciation to Wolfgang Roehr, chair of Roehr Group of Co.

CHRISTIAN Clerc, Luiji Lardizabal and Joyce Ramirez

MARILOU and John Lu Koa

CHINA Cojuangco, Henri Calayag and Tim Yap

LARA Fabregas, Ignacio Loyola and Kenji Marquez

ANGEL Jacob presents the International Retailer of the Year award to Mango's Ed Tekeli.

RAVES followed the first Roehr Mega Fashion Awards (RFMA) 2001 held recently at the NBC Tent, Global City, Fort Bonifacio.

Described as a "synergistic partnership," RFMA 2001 resulted from an unprecedented collaboration between pharmaceutical giant Roehr Group of Co., headed by German corporate maverick Wolfgang O. Roehr, and Mega Magazine, through Sari V. Yap, executive vice president and editor in chief.

Style icons, renowned designers and celebrities attended the red carpet, by-invitation-only affair that had the look of glamorous fashion galas in New York, Paris, Milan and London.

Tim Yap anchored the elegant affair, assisted by the country's top mannequins who are vying for the Commercial Model of the Year Award: Sarah Meier, Phoemela Baranda and Amanda Griffin.

The program opened with a moving video presented by the Roehr Group, which highlighted the company's leading role in promoting German quality medicines and nutraceuticals (led by the group's top-selling product, Exofat Forte). Directed by Jeric Soriano, with original music by Jimmy Antiporda, the video presentation and MTV showcased Roehr Group's 10-year campaign to give Filipinos access to good health through exceptional pharmaceutical products.

The Roehr Group is composed of Biogenerics Ltd., Germed Pharma Corp. and, the newest, Roehr Nature+Science.

Coproducing the event was Joyce Antonio Ramirez, the Roehr Group's vice president for corporate affairs and managing director of Interxn Worldwide Communications, the promotional arm of the Roehr Corp.

Recipients of the first RMFA exemplified the best, the brightest and the most promising from the fashion industry, celebrating the styles set by leading fashionable personalities. Sculptor Impy Pilapil designed the glass trophies.

Inno Sotto received the Roehr Special Award for Evening Wear. He shared honors with Joe Salazar for Bridal Wear. Rhett Eala took the award for Women's Day Wear while Cecile Zamora was cited for Women's Streetwear. Cesar Gaupo was adjudged best in Women's Ready to Wear.

Marden Iglesias was chosen Men's Wear Designer of the Year while Ignacio Loyola was named Most Promising Designer. Other winners included Jun de Leon as Best Fashion Photographer, Patrick Rosas as Best Makeup Artist and Henri Calayag as Best Hairstylist.

Television host Boy Abunda introduced the second half of the show. Donita Rose and Diether Ocampo were cited as Most Fashionable Showbiz Personalities (Readers Choice). Cristina Garcia and Paulo Relucio were voted Commercial Models of the Year, while catwalk sensations Joan Bitagcol and Borgy Manotoc were declared Runway Models of the Year.

Bench and Mango received the awards for Local and International Retailers of the Year, respectively. Young diva Mai Mai Cojuangco bagged this year's Mega Style Icon 2001 award.

Glamour and prestige were the theme of the RMFA 2001, directed by Robby Carmona. Preshow cocktails were held at the NBC Tent's lounge, brightened up by Rachy Cuna's floral arrangements. A dinner courtesy of Le Soufflé's Billy King preceded the fabulous fashion awards, described by the 600 select guests as the year's most spectacular.

The first Roehr Mega Fashion Awards 2001 will be presented on TV via Entertainment Channel Philippines at 8 p.m. on Nov. 25.

MEGA'S executive vice president and editor in chief Sari Yap

ow The Game?
Which team won the Governor's Cup conference in 1999?
Who was nicknamed "Skywalker" on the basketball court?
MART PBA
Slam
Game.
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Each correct answer is one (1) raffle entry for the weekly raffle draw.

To check the number of raffle entries for the current week:
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2 PBA Championship tickets*
(1 winner)
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(4 winners)
PBA notebooks & stickers
(6 winners)
PBA Trading Cards
(6 winners)
Adidas items
(1 winner)
The weekly raffle will be held every Friday (Nov. 23, 30 Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28)
**Championship tickets will only be given within the duration of the championship games (Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7 draws)*

Winners will be drawn from a computer-generated system.

Winners will be notified by a text message and a call to their registered mobile number.

Winners must present their congratulatory text message and a valid ID to claim their prize.

Metro Manila winners can claim their prizes at SPARC, Padilla Arcade, Ground Floor, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, Metro Manila.
Provincial winners' prizes will be sent via registered mail.
Promo period is from
Nov. 16, 2001-Dec. 28, 2001.
See flyers for details.

**Each successfully sent message will be charged ₱2.50*

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MARJORIE Barretto (second from left) and friends

JO Ramos and Mark Gavino

KRISTINE Lato and Andy Ong

MIA Florencio and Josie Sy

MICKEY and Tonton Limjoco

TONY Ilomin, Diosdado Macapagal Jr., Raffy Florencio and Robert Castañeda

Clocking in style

(From page F1)

watch, it gave off this certain perception of heavy-duty durability?

Well, whatever it was, Manila sure was going gaga over these wrist Rolls Royces, which could go from P8,000 to P875,000 per bracelet. It is now distributed by Raffy Florencio, that man behind the women who wear moissanite jewelry.

That evening at the Pen, white cloth draped the ballroom, which was divided into two areas—an exhibit space where techno-tronics could gaze at their favored timepieces while the other half had a sprawling buffet and ramp area where people eagerly awaited the show.

And wait they did. After the first raffle emceed by "it" gal Donita Rose (they raffled off six watches), big band song numbers were savvily rendered by gentleman Richard Tann, who emceed and produced the event as well. Another raffle. Then out came Lani Misalucha who churned out Whitney Houston hits, keeping the audience in awe with her mastery of notes. To this, Raffy's sister Mia applauded wildly, along with the crowd who screamed for more.

After what seemed like an eternity of variety show entertainment, the parade of mannequins proudly displaying their TechnoMarines ensued. It started with three professional divers, who walked down the ramp in their dive suits. Models followed in their birthday suits (other people call it swimwear—but hey, who's complaining?) donning only TechnoMarine watches on their wrists and arms. They later wore the clothes of those hip fashion movers, the Young Designers Guild and Hugo Boss.

The guests, social sets of all ages, from '80s icons and current "it" girls and socialites and media *dahlings*, stayed the whole duration of the show—obviously waiting for the results of the raffle. Among the winners were Daisy Payumo and Jo Ramos, who won the diamond-encrusted beauty.

With its power combination of Swiss craftsmanship and French design, it's a winner in many watch connoisseurs' lists. So, why should we get this piece. which is a beat ahead of the others, I ask pretty, pretty Ciara Sevilla, TechnoMarine's gem of a product manager.

"Because its hot," she said, without batting an eyelash.

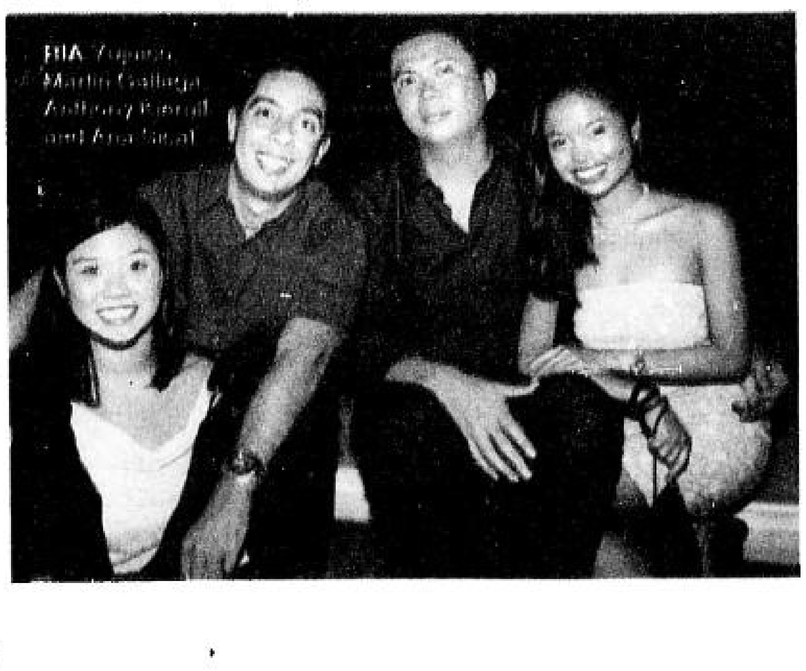
VINA Morales

PAOLO Bediones

REP. Miguel Zubiri

RANDY Ortiz

ANA Tiaoqui, Henry Peñalosa, Mia Tiaoqui, Mark Tiaoqui, Quinito Oreta and Michael Tiaoqui


RIA [illegible] Martin [illegible] Anthony [illegible] and Ana [illegible]

Come Home to a Duty Free Christmas

As soon as your loved one arrives from abroad this Holiday Season, explore the limitless pasalubong shopping choices at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall. And while you're at it, take advantage of the various treats we have in store.

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Weddings & Engagements

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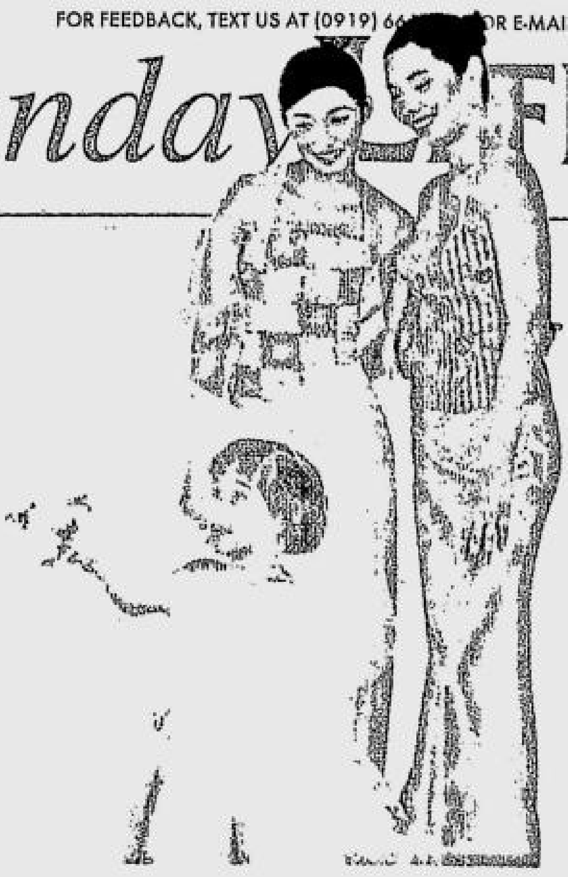

CHIC ON A BUDGET. Bridal gown and entourage dresses for a package approximately P50,000

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

SARI-SARI'S branch on the second floor of the Power Plant in Rockwell is a virtual one-stop shop for would-be brides who are always on the run. From showers to giveaways, shoes to bags to outfits for the entire entourage, Sari-Sari has got it all tucked away in one nook. Michelle Lim, designer of Sari-Sari's formal wear under the label Michelle Lim for Sari-Sari, originally trained to be a banker. In fact, she has an AB Economics degree coupled with fashion design. "*Hilig lang talaga*," Lim says. Today, well-made, stylish formal clothes range from P1,000 to P5,000, off the rack, thanks to Lim.

Lim says that bridal gowns off the rack still do not make good business in Manila. "Brides, I guess, Filipinos in general still prefer the personal touch," she says. Consultations on design can be made at the Power Plant branch over a cup of coffee or tea at the warm and cozy café, located right inside the store. "I usually meet with the bride here at the shop and discuss the budget, design, etc. The bridal gown is available for as low as P25,000 or for whatever budget the bride has. One's personal touch is important so for working women, fitting clothes at the café during their lunch break is a great convenience," she adds.

The Power Plant's Sari-Sari staff have been trained to take measurements so that the brides

BRIDES/ p.G2

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THE COUPLE with the groom's family

WITH THE BRIDE'S family

From a decade of love to a lifetime of commitment

THE DAY Mt. Pinatubo erupted was also the day the beautiful love story of Arvin Cardeño and Laurie Balderrama began. They met in the parish choir of Sta. Rosa de Lima in Pasig City. She was then a hotel and restaurant administration sophomore at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and he was a human resource management student at the College of St. Benilde, De La Salle University.

Laurie is now a senior sales account manager at the Manila Galleria Suites, and Arvin heads the training department of Cocoplans Inc.

Like any girl, Laurie had a clear picture of her dream wedding. On Sept. 30, it became a reality when Arvin and she exchanged marriage vows at Christ the King Parish Church in Green Meadows, QC.

Blessed with a good tenor voice, the groom serenaded the bride with the song "Ikaw" as she walked down the aisle. It was a touching moment for everyone.

The bride was radiant in the elegant wedding gown designed by Mila Santiago de Leon and the exquisite hair and makeup done by Manolo and Glenn. The burgundy and silver gowns of the entourage from Galatea showcased the wedding motif. Music was provided by A Cappella Manila, flowers by Paulin's, the wedding cake was by Cake Concepts, and the souvenirs of angel frames made of lahar were by Excel Frames and Decors. Photo and video coverage was by Ariel Javelosa.

There is a saying that God gives each one of us a special person who will bring out the best in us. And this is what God has done for Arvin and Laurie. After sharing a decade of love, they are looking forward to a lifetime of happiness and commitment.

ARVIN and Laurie

Brides on a budget

(From page G1)

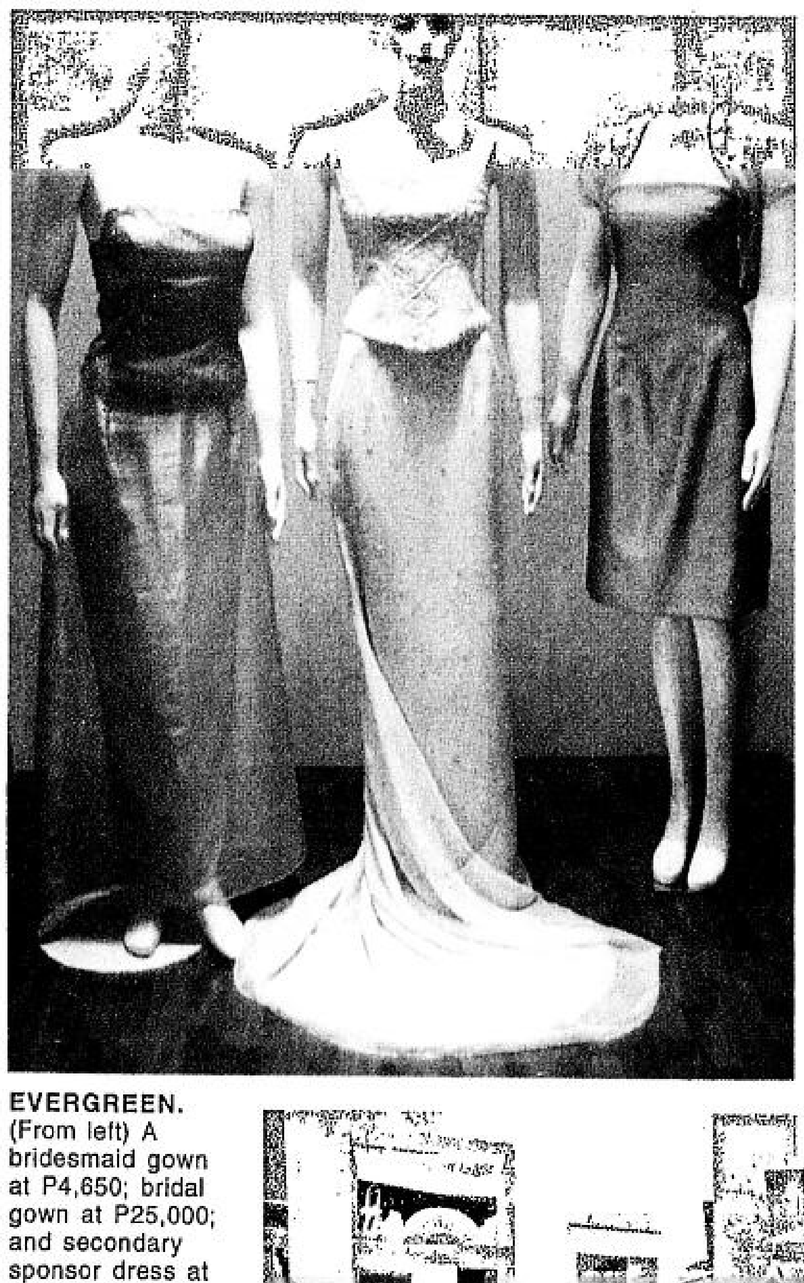
and their entourage can visit the store any day of the week during mall hours.

Personality enhancer

Lim initially asks a client to try on different clothes in order to determine which fabrics, colors and cuts would enhance her personality. The designer says that not all Filipinas look radiant in white, which can be attributed to their unique skin tone. "Some of them look more stunning in ecru, silver, champagne or beige. That's why it's important for the bride to fit dresses of different colors, cuts and fabrics," she explains, "We had clients who were really so busy that they bought dresses for the entire wedding entourage," Lim says.

Alterations for all off-the-rack purchases are free of charge. "It's cheaper for the bride to buy all the sizes: small, medium and large. They can actually save as much as 40-50 percent," Lim adds. Looking "chic yet charming on a budget," as Lim describes it, is not an impossibility. So, if you're not really particular about wearing white on your wedding day, which a lot of nontraditional brides have done, you can take your pick from the collection that hangs on the racks of Sari-Sari. "Brides have become more particular about the amount of money they shell out for a gown," Lim stresses. Although many are still willing to spend hundreds of thousands, a growing majority has become more prudent owing to the difficult times.

Grooms can also shop at Sari-Sari. A vast array of traditional barong tagalogs and shoes are available off-the-rack at the wedding nook. Wedding giveaways are also offered. Embroidery, hand-painting and dyeing are indeed Lim's specialties. Her experimentations with dyed *piña* and *jusi* have resulted in interesting creations. Imagine wearing an outfit in *piña* or *jusi* dyed in hip colors like mint green and fuchsia. You should have the panache to be able to wear the dress with style. Nevertheless, such experimentations have caught the fancy of the younger crowd. "Some clients have said that it was difficult to distinguish the clothes made from satin and those made from dyed *piña* and *jusi*," Lim says. "Brides often think that a *piña* gown costs P100,000 and is therefore beyond their reach. We want to prove to them that one can have a simple yet elegant *piña* wedding gown for half the price, if not even less," she stresses. Her training in economics has helped Lim in her creation of wedding gowns that make today's Filipina look chic on a budget.



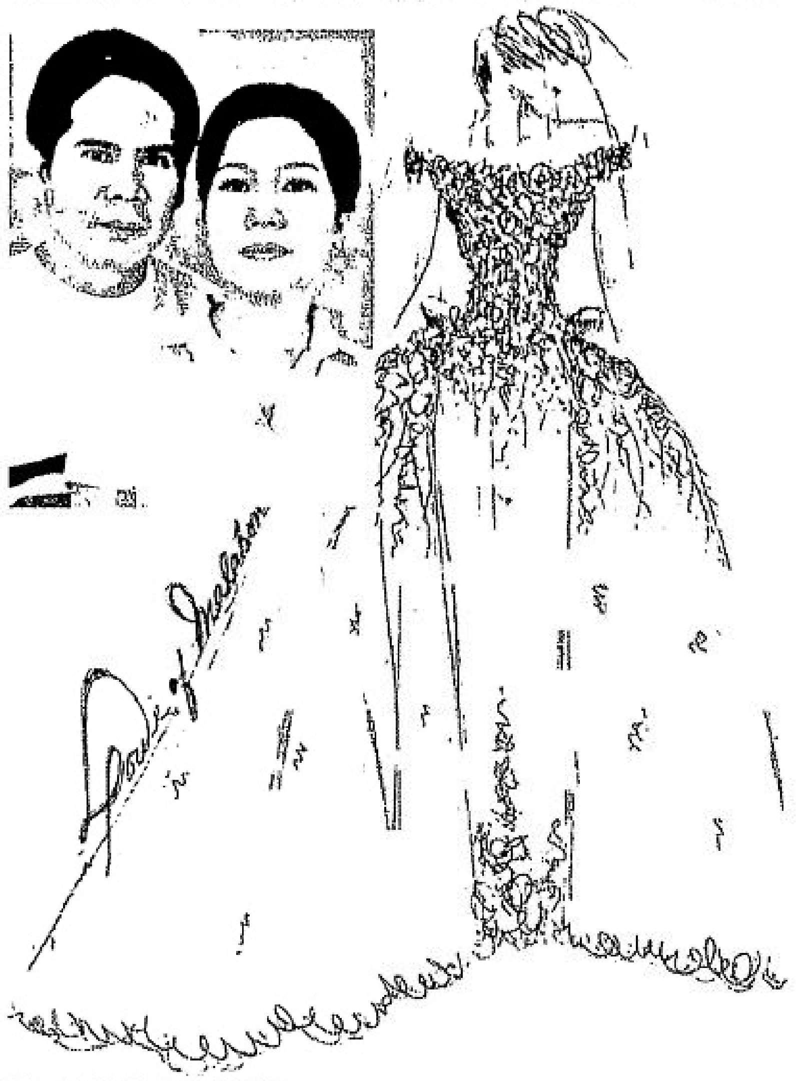
EVERGREEN. (From left) A bridesmaid gown at P4,650; bridal gown at P25,000; and secondary sponsor dress at P4,250

MICHELLE Lim at Sari-Sari's bridal nook

PRETTY IN PINK. (From left) *Piña* dress at P3,500 plus; *piña* shawl for P2,850; outfit for P3,100; skirt and blouse for P2,900

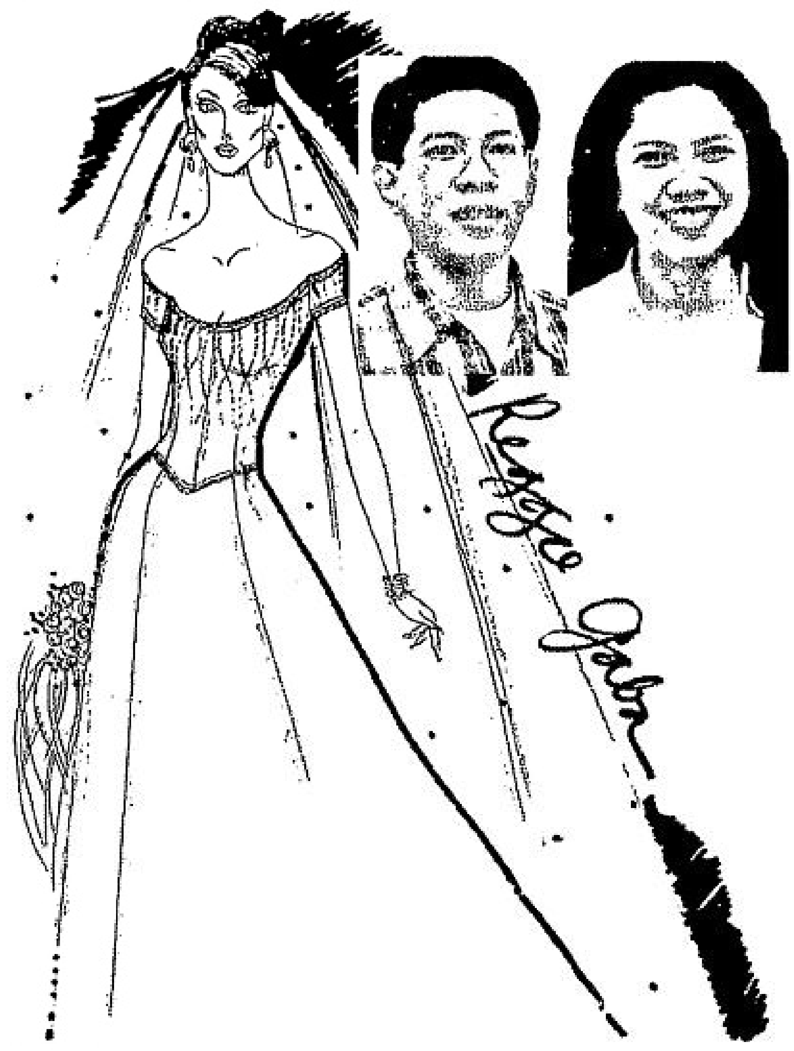
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



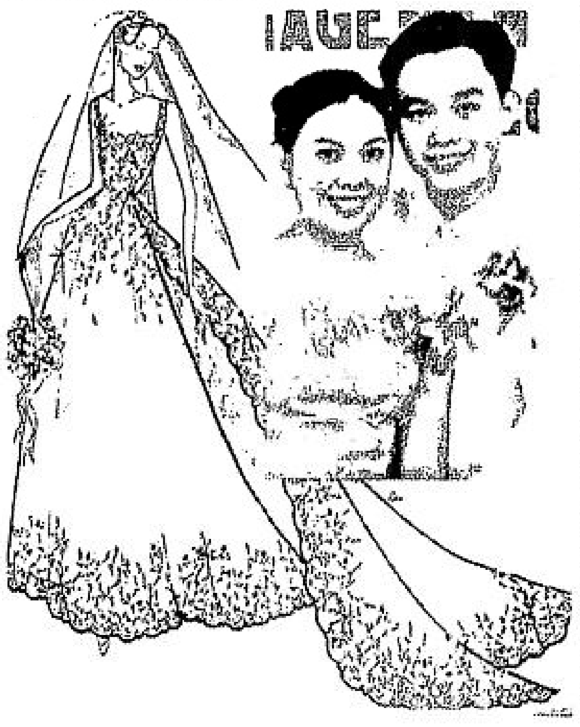
LLANTADA-NUVAL

Edward T. Llantada will wed **Venus Marie L. Nuval** today at Puerto Real Gardens, Intramuros, Manila. Officiating minister is Rev. Dr. **Mariano Apilado**. Food will be served by VS&F Classic Food International. Velvet Mood Musical Services will provide the music. The bride will wear a fully beaded off-shoulder gown made of gracia materials and Italian lace, embellished with rhinestones and crystal beads, designed by **Louie** of Malabon.



ROGADOR-NACUA

Alvin Rogador, son of **Victorino** and **Erlinda Rogador**, will exchange vows with **Grace Nacua**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Marlene Nacua**, on Dec. 1 at St. Peter Parish on Commonwealth Ave., QC. The bride will wear an off-shoulder gown made of Italian satin and embellished with Swarovski stones in royal blue and silver created by **Reggie Gala**.



CHUA-CHU

Annjane Chu, daughter of **Fe Chu** and the late **Alfonso Chu**, will exchange "I dos" with **Arvin Chua**, son of **Luis** and **Nena Chua**, on Dec. 16 at the Our Lady of Remedies Church in Clarkfield, Pampanga. The bride will wear a square-necked princess-cut bridal gown with a detachable train, adorned with Swiss corded lace beaded with pearls, rice beads, gold and silver cut-glass beads created by Galatea designers **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**. Reception will follow at the Fontana Convention Center.

DORADO-SANTOS

Eric G. Dorado, son of **Fernando** and **Leticia Dorado** of Las Piñas City, and **Shirly F. Santos**, daughter of **Gaudencio** and **Estelita Santos** of San Fernando, Pampanga, will tie the knot on Dec. 8 at the Sacred Heart Parish, San Fernando, Pampanga.

GUESE-RAMIREZ

Robert Carlo C. Guese, son of **Manuel D. Guese** and **Ma. Marita C. Guese**, will tie the knot with **Monette D. Ramirez**, daughter of **Ernesto A. Ramirez Sr.** and **Monica D. Ramirez**, on Dec. 6 at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila. The bride will wear a **Cherry Rodriguez** creation.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

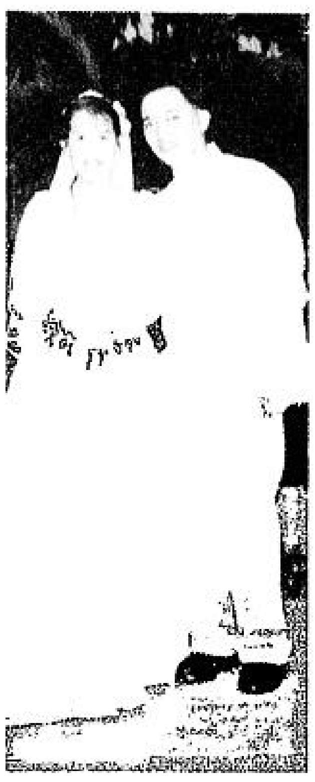
Mr. and Ms **Jose Castro Ortega Sr.** (nee **Raymunda Vargas Pimping**) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 13 with a renewal of marriage vows at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral in Intramuros Manila. Reception followed at the Century Park Ballroom. Photo shows the couple with their children (from left) **Ma. Lorudes, Ma. Rita, Mary Grace, Ma. Susan, Jose Jr., Antonio Delfin, Ma. Corazon, Ma. Rosa** and **Ma. Theresa**.

LANDICHO-VIAÑA

Corinne Viaña, daughter of **Armando** and **Lopita Viaña**, will wed **Garry Landicho**, son of **Galileo** and **Corazon Landicho**, on Dec. 15 at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in Quezon City. The bride will wear a strapless princess-cut gown in iced pink Italian satin, embellished with transparent and crystal-pink cut glass beads, minute pearls and borealis in cascading leaf patterns, designed for her by **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez** of Galatea.

AMADOR DEBUT

Sallyper Jane de Guzman Amador, daughter of engineer and Ms **Perfecto B. Amador**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Dec. 1 at the Alapan Pavilion, Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. She is a BS Psychology student at St. Scholastica's College-Manila.



ALUMIA-ANDAL

Florante Balingit Alumia, son of **Celso** and **Rufina Alumia**, exchanged marriage vows with **Amabel Manarin Andal**, daughter of **Caridad Andal** and the late **Simon Andal**, on Jan. 20, 2001 at Saint Joseph Parish, Carmona, Cavite. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Fr. **Agustin Baas**. Reception followed at Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. The bride wore a **Nene Mabilangan** creation.

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720 x 720 dpi resolution
4-color InkJet Printer
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approx. 3.5 ppm for colored text
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EPSON STYLUS™ C50
1440 x 720 dpi resolution
4-color InkJet Printer
Prints at approx. 8.0 ppm for black text
approx. 3.9 ppm for colored text
P4,995.00

EPSON STYLUS C60
2880 x 720 dpi resolution
4-color InkJet Printer
Prints at approx. 12.0 ppm for black text
approx. 12.0 ppm for colored text
P6,995.00

EPSON STYLUS PHOTO 810
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All printers mentioned above are equipped with:
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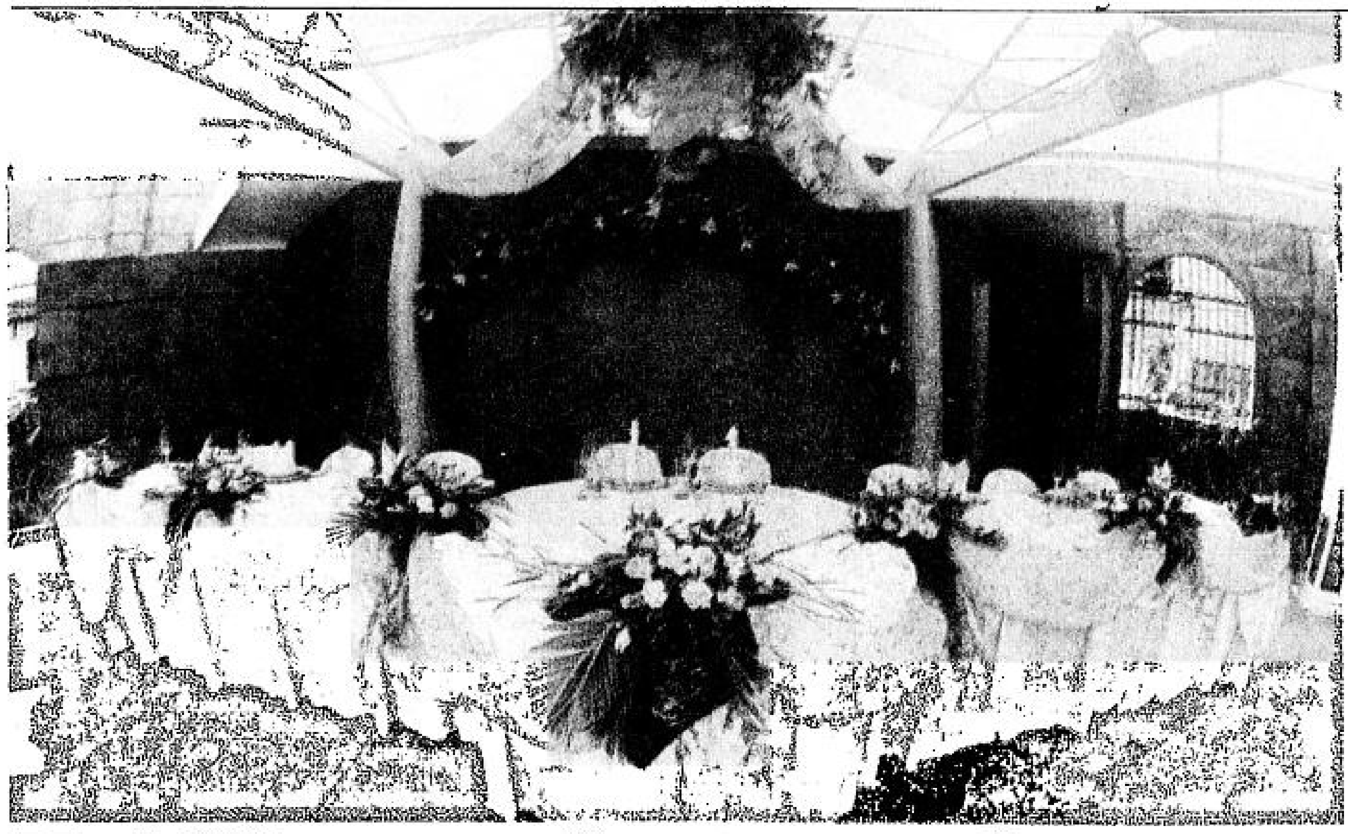


PATIO Victoria is a beautiful venue for garden weddings and other receptions like baptisms and debuts.

Fulfill your fantasy of a memorable garden wedding

CRISTINA Gonzales-Romualdez earned her first paycheck when she was only 16 years old by appearing in a commercial. Since then, this beautiful mestiza has shifted careers effortlessly.

A former singer, actress and TV host, Cristina also studied interior design and haircutting. There was a time, she remembers, that she built houses and sold them.

Today, Cristina is busy with Patio Victoria (formerly known as Sitio Victoria), a place for unforgettable weddings.

"I've always been fascinated with weddings. And I've always dreamed of having one in a garden," says Cristina, who married former Leyte Rep. Alfred Romualdez in 1998 and is now the mother of 2-year-old Sofia.

The daughter of former matinee idol Jose Mari Gonzalez and his wife Charito, Cristina, like her sister Ana, has always been partial to the arts.

Of course, Cristina's greatest role in life is that of a wife and mother. She believes that being an accomplished cook is part and parcel of being a homemaker and it's an added delight that her husband Alfred loves to eat. Cristina says that she and her husband not only enjoy hosting intimate dinners for friends at home but also eating out. Their preferences are Italian, Japanese and Thai cuisine.

She recalls that she and her siblings grew up eating Spanish food. "We loved *lengua* and other tomato-based Spanish dishes," Cristina says.

CRISTINA's on top of things at Patio Victoria.

Cristina handled her own wedding even though she hired the services of a Manila-based wedding coordinator. She never did fulfill her dreams of having a garden wedding, but now she's helping other like-minded brides fulfill their fantasies with a beautiful venue that can accommodate up to 400 people.

Patio Victoria takes guests back to an era of gracious living, manicured lawns and light breezes. It is the perfect venue for brides who want something different, with an Old World charm. From the large wooden gate to the cobblestone walkway to the gazebo, Patio Victoria exudes a unique charm not usually found in hotel ballrooms and posh restaurants.

An incomparable ambience and sumptuous food are what Patio Victoria has to offer. Cristina describes the cuisine as "a delightful mixture of Spanish, Filipino and Continental." Aside from Spanish favorites like *lengua*, *callos* and *paella*, Patio Victoria also has an excellent pasta and salad selection. Other delicious dishes include roast beef and roast chicken. Couples can have a food-tasting before they make their final choices.

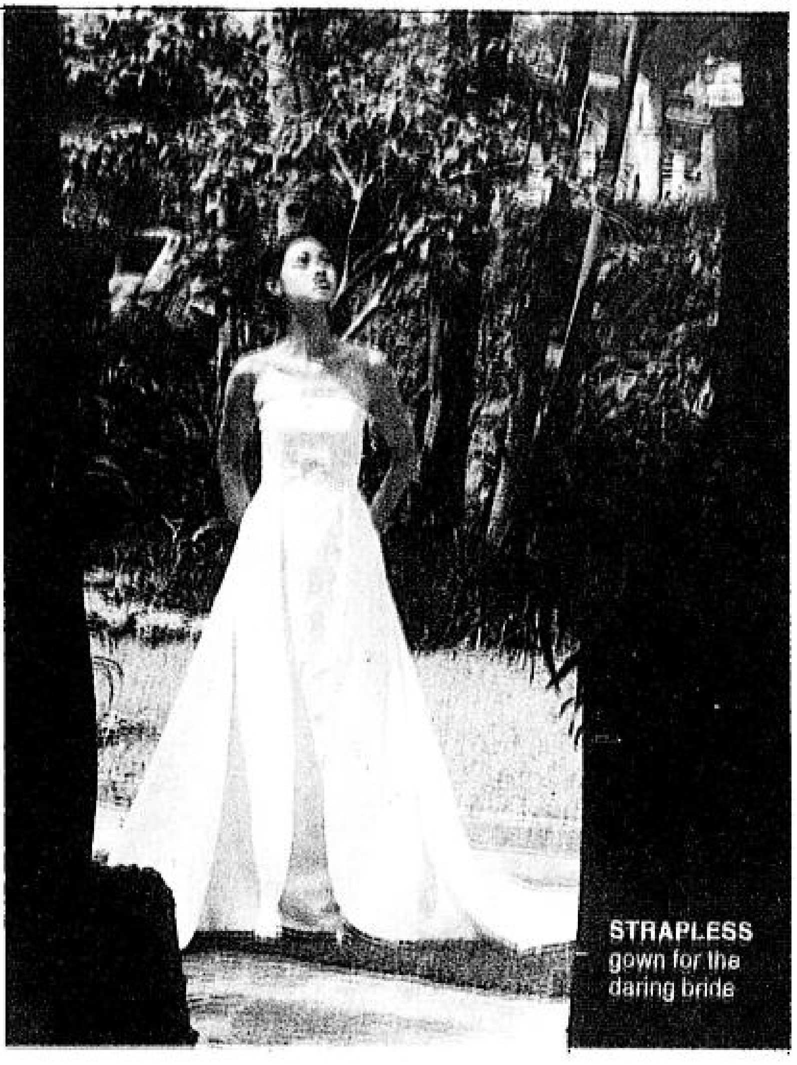
For brides who want to do everything themselves without the help of a coordinator, Patio Victoria has suppliers like photographers, salons and even designers.

"We will be here to help if we are asked," Cristina says.

Call Patio Victoria at 526-1953.

DITO SA ABC, SASABAK NA SA LABA
WHEEL OF FORTUNE
LUNES-SABADO
7:30 n.g.
HOSTED BY
RUSTOM PADILLA
& VICTORIA LONDON
SIMULA BUKAS
UNES-SAB
8:00 n.g
HOSTED B
OGIE ALC
SIMULA BUK
Abangan ang kanilang

GAYLE Ong wearing an Edgar Allan bridal gown with a revealing back



STRAPLESS gown for the daring bride

A STUNNING pose by the natural pond of Allan's sprawling garden landscaped by business partner Rene Tiongco

Business partners rekindle old passions

PHOTOS BY EDGAR ALLAN

WHEN Makati fashion designer Edgar Allan and business partner Rene Tiongco completed their studies back in the '70s, they both pursued post-graduate education to prepare themselves for a planned joint venture.

Allan, who had a degree in fine arts advertising from the University of Santo Tomas, enroled at the Madonna School of Fashion under the tutelage of the late fashion matriarch, Vicky Galang. Tiongco, who studied landscape architecture at the University of the Philippines, flew to New York to take up a business course in fashion at the prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology.

In the '80s and '90s, the two were so busy operating a successful boutique and bridal salon (now at the Glorietta of Ayala Center) that there was hardly any time to practice their initial career choices. But when Allan reached the golden age last year, he decided to rekindle an interest that started in his college days but never had the time and the courage to pursue—photography. On the other hand, as a birthday gift to his business partner, Tiongco decided to landscape the celebrator's sprawling garden at his Quezon City residence since Allan has absolutely no green thumb. It was an opportunity for Tiongco to use a talent that has not been exploited so far. He invited his mother, Charing Tiongco, a garden and plant lover, to help him execute his ideas.

EDGAR Allan and Rene Tiongco

The finished garden had a subdued and natural atmosphere as Tiongco followed the natural shape of the terrain and not to over "manicure" it. Most of the plants, which were already there, were allowed to flourish with minimal trimming. Allan was so pleased with the garden that he decided to do a fashion pictorial there to showcase his bridal fashions and Tiongco's landscape artistry.

The result is a striking collaboration of two talents. The lush natural rhythm of the garden complemented perfectly Allan's wedding gowns in clean, flowing lines.

N ANG MGA HARI NG GAME SHOWS!
the Price is right
LINGGO
7:00 n.g.
HOSTED BY
DAWN ZULUETA
SIMULA NOV. 25
DO
ID
AS
Come home to
tagumpay sa ABC

GMA foundation

Give A Gift 2001 for every 'batang' Pinoy

MESSAGES

I WISH to convey my warmest greetings to the members of the GMA Foundation Inc. on the event of their nationwide gift-giving campaign.

I commend the GMA Foundation Inc. for their effort in addressing the needs of the marginalized sector of our society. For years you have continued your strong commitment to share gifts of love and joy to the hearts of the needy Filipino children. I am confident that your continued work to provide love and warmth to the less fortunate youth this Christmas will inspire our people to contribute to nation building.

Our administration welcomes this initiative that will bring positive atmosphere to the Filipino community this holiday season. I laud your selfless dedication to promote the welfare of the youth by promoting the Karunungan Karavan and the Gift A Gift campaign. My administration is one with you in spreading the Christmas spirit of peace, love and sharing.

May your efforts continue to open venues and opportunities for the Filipino people to share their blessings with the less fortunate this Christmas. I wish the success of your campaign and your endeavors to help uplift the lives of the Filipino people.

Merry Christmas and *Mabuhay!*

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

THE HOLIDAY season truly brings out the best in people. It is at this time that people touch other people's lives by giving gifts or by simply spending more time with one another.

We are therefore happy to know that GMA Foundation Inc. will once again bring good cheers to our less fortunate children all over the country through its "Gift a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy." Significantly, the project will not only spread cheers to young children through the toys they receive but it also opens a new opportunity for them to learn through gifts of education. The children will also be treated to storytelling sessions whereby they can play and at the same time learn new things.

"Gift a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy" is a timely project which supports the Department of Social Welfare and Development's objectives of promoting children's rights and welfare. I, therefore, congratulate and commend GMA Foundation for holding this annual project and for its significant contribution in enabling companies and individuals to share their resources with the needy. Indeed, you make a big difference in the lives of our children.

I urge everyone to be part of this worthy undertaking and join GMA Foundation Inc. in its quest to bring happiness to our little angels this Christmas and in all of the days to come.

Kudos! GMA Foundation.

CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary
Departmentof Social Welfare and Development

BY JENIELLE MARIE ENOJO

"*SANA po, lahat masaya ngayong pasko...*"

As children, we all looked forward to celebrating Christmas. We saw it as a season with lots of food and *aguinaldo*. Who could possibly forget showing off the best dress and shoes given by Ninong and Ninang during the Misa de Gallo? Or the celebrated exchanging of gifts with our loved ones on the eve of Jesus' birthday? We had so many of those memories. We were lucky.

Sometime, somewhere though, we see things and realize from them. Drive through Ermita, day or night, and you will see. Walk through the overpass in Baclaran and you will know. Stay in Basilan and you will feel the terror and misery. Children selling their flesh or sampaguita. Ill and handicapped children begging for alms. Children timorous and discriminated... these children are the very same children who also deserve to feel what we, the "lucky" ones feel, as Christmas would come.

And that is only to name a few. There are still thousands and thousands of children suffering from hunger, abuse, harassment and exploitation, not only in our country but throughout the world.

Now, we are posed with a question of what to do about it. Indeed, nobody is spared of his or her social responsibilities. It is in that belief that people continue to build organizations to help the less fortunate, alleviate their situations and fight for their rights.

GMA Foundation (GMAF) is only one among the many.

GMAF, the socio-civic arm of GMA Network, has education for its main thrust and the children as its prime beneficiaries. Among its annual projects is Give A Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy, the annual Christmas gift-giving project created to provide an opportunity for everyone to do his or her share in making a difference in the young lives of the Filipino children.

GIFTS, anyone?

"The idea of incorporating education with Give A Gift came out because the main thrust of GMAF is on education, thus it has to be reflected in all of our programs and projects. However that most of us associate Give A Gift as more of a toy-giving project, probing deeper into it you'll see it as a learning-while-playing activity for the children," GMAF Operations Manager Julie Gallos further explains.

This year's Give A Gift continues to answer the needs and advocates the rights of the children to play and recreation as it embarks on widening its reach and incorporating education with play, nationwide.

"Together with Unicef, GMA Foundation wants people to understand the value of playing. For adults, it's all just fun. For kids, playing is serious stuff. They learn more about themselves, others, and the world. What's best is they are having fun while learning," GMAF Executive Director Carmen Jimenez-Ong declares.

GMAF believes that Give A Gift with education would have a lasting and better effect on the children. It is making them appreciate the beauty of learning and the fun they could derive from it.

"When a kid plays, know that it is not plain sheer fun, he can learn something from the activity, as well," GMAF Special Projects Manager Mary Ann Santiago avers.

Give A Gift this year goes to the farthest places—Abra, Pangasinan, Quirino, Albay, Biliran, Aklan, Guimaras, North Cotabato, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi—to spend Christmas among the little boys and girls of the Ibalois, Ifugaos, Ibanags, Itas, Agtas, Mangyans, Tagbanuas, Badjaos, Manobos, T'bolis and Muslims.

Furthermore, simultaneous with the provincial distribution activities, Give A Gift also reaches out to 15 Barangays all over Metro Manila. Recently, five hospitals were also visited—East Avenue Medical Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Quezon City General Hospital, Philippine Orthopedic Center and Quezon Institute—to spread the early Christmas cheer to terminally ill children.

COLE-LANCE Credo and Marie Antonette Miranda of Bago Bantay Elementary School were treated to a day of fun and gifts at Kids @ Work.

Looking at Give A Gift's history, it started out by giving gifts to the children of rehabilitating prisoners and later added up those terminally ill and in underprivileged conditions: orphans, calamity victims and street children. Jimenez-Ong, then a volunteer for GMA-7 and Prison Fellowship Philippines' Project Angel Tree in 1990, wanted to deepen her involvement in such a noble endeavor. It eventually became her take-off point that in 1998, together with 16 of her friends, Give A Gift was born.

This year, with hundreds of volunteers, sponsors and donors, and still counting, Give A Gift is more than just a gift-giving activity. It is bridging the gap for the oppressed, the exploited, the isolated, the abandoned and the marginalized sectors of society to feel valued and encouraged that they may lead better lives.

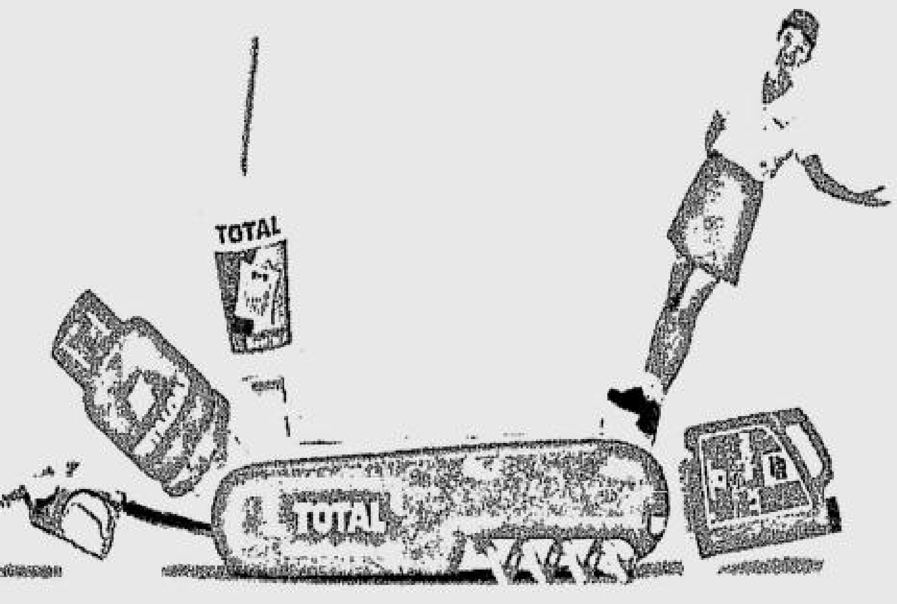
Not far nor hard... no holds barred for Give A Gift as it reaches out to 100,000 Filipino children all over the country.

A season for every child... for everyone. That is what Christmas should be, for it knows no sick nor poor nor indigenous nor underprivileged nor abused nor illiterate children.

"*Sana po, lahat masaya ngayong pasko...*"

Such a simple statement... such a simple wish voiced by a little child that echoes in our midst. Surely, we can do something about it. Give A Gift!

You can help by way of donating toys, educational materials, clothes, toiletries, health care products and soda cans/PET bottles. You may also help out in sorting and wrapping of gifts. For inquiries, call 928-5087 or 928-7021 loc. 437/438 or e-mail wecare@gmanetwork.com or drop by GMAF office, Edsa corner Timog Avenue, 11 Jamboree Street, Diliman, Quezon City.



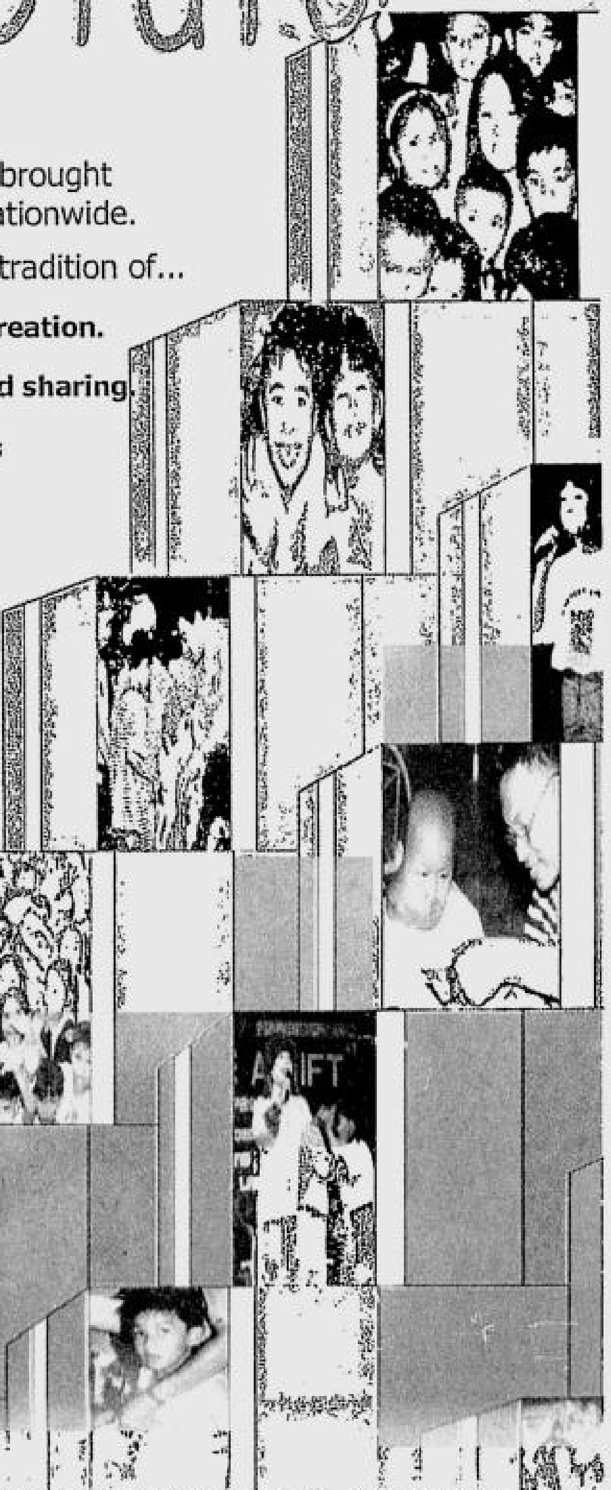
Well-Oiled
Well-Equipped

TotalFinaElf Philippines Corporation is armed with the tools to meet the country's ever- growing petroleum needs. What sets **TotalFinaElf Philippines Corporation** apart from the rest are its wide range of premium quality products, its world-renowned service and its genuine concern for safety and environmental protection.

From its convenience stores known as "La Boutique" to lubricants and LPG, **TotalFinaElf** has constantly kept one thing in mind - to give Filipinos nothing but exceptional products of international standards. To ensure that its customers get their fill, it has set up a network of retail service stations strategically located in Metro Manila and other key areas in Luzon. With the full support of its European mother company **TOTALFINAELF** - one of the 5 largest oil and gas companies in the world - **TotalFinaElf Philippines Corporation** is fully charged to fulfill the demands of a nation on the go.

All these make **TotalFinaElf Philippines Corporation** the complete, well-oiled machinery it is today - ever committed to quality service and customer care.

TOTAL
IT'S OUR NATURE TO CARE.



Give peace. Give Love.
GIVE A GIFT
ALAY SA BATANG PINOY

Regalo Pa Po!

Since 1998, Give A Gift: Alay Sa Batang Pinoy has brought cheers to over 300,000 underprivileged children nationwide.

Now on its 4th year, Give A Gift continues with its tradition of...

- ✩ Promoting the child's basic right to play and recreation.
- ✩ Spreading the Christmas spirit of peace, love and sharing.
- ✩ Providing a venue for companies and individuals to share their blessings to the less-fortunate.

Further, GAG 2001 aims to provide Filipino children the "gift of education" through the incorporation of GMA Foundation's *Karunungan Karavan* in some distribution activities. Indigenous children in remote areas of the Philippines will be given priority.

You can help and participate by...

- ✩ Donating toys, food, clothes, books and other educational materials.
- ✩ Volunteering to sort and wrap gifts and by helping out in distribution activities.
- ✩ Organizing a toy drive in your school, church, company or community.
- ✩ Bringing your donations to GMA Foundation office or to any GAG drop-off areas.

SANA LAHAT MASAYA NGAYONG PASKO

GMA foundation
GMA Foundation, EDSA cor. 11th Jamboree St., Quezon City
Tel. No. 928-5087 or 928-7021 loc. 437/438 Fax: 9289351
Email: wecare@gmanetwork.com/gmaf@gmanetwork.com

The team and the journey they make

BY KAREN ALVAREZ PAGSOLINGAN

We had been walking for what seemed like eternity. My knees were already shaking and I was on the verge of collapsing. Everyone called for a rest and I heaved a sigh of relief.

From afar, I heard Gilbert singing Shaggy's 'It Wasn't Me'. His discomfort was obvious and he was showing it in form of a song with his screwed lyrics. Gilbert is the type who has always looked at the bright side of things. Next to him was Shaun, literally dragging himself while walking. The trash bag that was draped around him like a raincoat was splattered with mud. I burst into laughter. But instead of taking it as an offense, he pointed out to my shoes noting the layers of ooze in it. 'Hey, I like your clogs,' and everyone laughed. Shaun's humor has always been that contagious. Even during a typical day in the office, he had always managed to put some life into what he did.

The rain already stopped but the damage couldn't be undone. We were all wet and the clayish soil was transformed into sticky mud. It brought all of us sudden delight when we saw a river. We all hurried there to wash our legs and shoes, except Isha and Jen. The former being one of the most reliable people in the group did an inventory of our baggage, while the latter sat quietly and began writing the first paragraph of her article for GMAF's newsletter. Along with Joy, they were the newest members of the team, and they were coping well.

We were all disconcerted upon learning that we had to cross that river. But since we had no other choice, we just held hands and braved the tumultuous water. Halfway through it, Nelvin was thrown out of balance as his foot stepped on a sharp rock. Being one of the gentlemen in the team, he volunteered to carry some of our bags. Liezel, the ever-ready Girl Scout of the group, brought out her first-aid kid and cleaned the wound.

It was getting dark when we reached the foot of the mountain. Rommel, Harold, and Budz offered to carry the rest of our bags. Although I was touched by their chivalry, I refused. These guys who started as volunteers never ceased to amaze me. Aside from being hard workers, they were dedicated.

The climb would have been easier if not for the slippery trail. I passed through Tina and Lorena who were chatting avidly about something. How they had changed for better! When they were just new in the team, they were shy and quiet.

It was three hours later when Ate Julie, the "still very energetic" operations manager of GMAF, announced that we were nearing our destination. We were all too tired to react.

Upon reaching the site, Mingkai checked her video cam intently. As the one in charge of publicity and promotions, she was trying to redeem what was left of her footage.

The minute we stepped into the house, Ate Me-Ann (GMAF's executive assistant to the director) rang to ask how the trip went. My conversation with her somehow erased my fatigue. Known for her fascination with "smileys", she had lived up to the philosophy that a smile does a lot of wonders.

FIRST row: from left are Liezel Liguaton, Trish Pagsolingan, Joreen Apuyan, Julie Gallos, Carmen Jimenez-Ong, Mingkai Lagumen, Isha Germentil, Jenielle Enojo. Second row: from left are Joy Garcia, Tina Dungca, Lorena Pechay, Apple Sandoval, Mary Ann Santiago, Paul Segui, Jojo Gonzales. Third row: from left are Gilbert Gaspar, Rommel Baduria, Jodink Sayong, Buboy Escober, Nelvin de Torres, Harold Cotinagco, and Shaun Tajon.

We retired at 1 a.m. No one bothered to relive the day's event, as we had to wake up early the next morning to carry out our mission. Yes, *our mission*. The trip was not an excursion. The whole team journeyed that far to 'Give A Gift'.

It was a sun-shiny day and everyone was excited. With revived energy and enthusiasm, we faced the expectant crowd. And when the distribution show began, yesterday's trip was completely forgotten. Paul danced to the delight of the children. The whole team was laughing at him, but he just went on. Paul really had such spirit! Even when some people tried to discourage him, he couldn't easily be deterred.

The day ended with children thanking us endlessly. They were hugging our gifts like prized possessions. We accomplished our mission—that of making people happy and making a difference.

The journey back home was faster. Kuya Buboy and Kuya Jojo fetched us from the airport. Otherwise known as B1 and B2, they had to stay in Manila to take care of picking up the donations and delivering our correspondences.

Going directly to the office, Joreen and Apple enthusiastically welcomed us back. They, too, had to be spared from the trip to stay in the office. Everyone began talking at the same time. Everyone had a story to tell. I had a great time observing. Just the other day, we were all complaining. But now, it was like nothing unfavorable happened.

Minutes later, Ma'am Cj (more popularly known as Ms. Carmen Jimenez-Ong) arrived. She was wearing this wide smile on her face. Her bright attitude and dedication had been an inspiration to all of us. "Guys, I have a BIG surprise for you!"

Everyone stopped and looked at her. Suddenly, there was a loud ringing of something I couldn't decipher. Was it the surprise?

"Trish, wake up. You'll be late!"

Oh my, what's the surprise? I was just dreaming! But then, whatever I dreamed about was nothing but normal for GMA Foundation team. I wasn't exaggerating when I said we climbed mountains and crossed rivers and walked for 8 hours straight. It wasn't a dream that I am part of a "dream team".

At 6:30 a.m., I was on my way to the office. The Give A Gift team will go to Abra to impart the true sprit of Christmas. I am very excited. Surely, I'll enjoy what the place has to offer--but more than that--I'll be privileged to feel the joy of helping... again.

We'll keep on walking, no matter what. Our home is where the people belong.

[illegible]

1. Star-J Mall-Malabon
   - G/F Lobby
   - Mezzanine level
   - 7/F near Bingo

2. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal

3. Virramall Shopping Center, Greenhills, San Juan
   - G/F Lobby (front and back)

4. Fairview Center Mall, Fairview, Quezon City
   - UG in front of Bizaare

5. 4 Henlin outlets for toys
   - Shell station (North Expressway) in Bulacan
   - Shell Station (South)
   - Pearl Drive, Ortigas
   - BF Homes, Parañaque

   The rest of Henlin outlets accept cash donations only.

*6. Ayala Center
   - Hang Ten
   - Zen Restaurant
   - Castle, Greenbelt Mall (near Auto Center)
   - Country Waffles
   - Kashieca
   - Taters

   *coin donations only

7. Selected TOTAL Gas Stations

8. Phenomena, Timog Avenue, Quezon City

MESSAGES

GMA has always lived up to its commitment as a responsible "station where you belong." More than being domestically and internationally acclaimed for its objective broadcast journalism and well-balanced programming, it is also deeply committed to public service in the country. Through its Bisig Bayan division, the GMA Foundation assists Filipinos in times of need, hardship and crisis. In addition, the Foundation is engaged in regular projects such as Give a Gift, Karunungan Karavan and Donate-A-Book for the benefit of children.

The foundation has metamorphosed to an effective organization over the years. From being reactive, it has shifted into being proactive. From one or two volunteers came a group of individuals, all dedicated to make a difference. From a few good men sprung many good hearts and happy faces. The GMA family takes pride in this.

My sincerest congratulations to the men and women of the foundation.

FELIPE L. GOZON
President and CEO
GMA Network, Inc.

OVER the last 11 years, the GMA Foundation has evolved into the social development arm of GMA Network. The foundation is our way of thanking and giving back to our various stakeholders for the inspiration and support they continuously give us at GMA.

Our projects, Donate-A-Book and Give-A-Gift have also grown in terms of scope and reach. Our thrust to provide a better future for the Filipino youth through education is manifested in the foundation's various literacy projects. This year, we launched the Karunungan Karavan and Bahay Karunungan projects which now serve as the distribution arms of Donate-A-Book. These projects provide the gift of education to underprivileged children through the encouragement of reading, craft-making, values formation and games. In this small way, we hope to be able to improve the lives of our beneficiaries and give them hope for a brighter future.

GMA Foundation's objectives could not have been met without the invaluable support of GMA Foundation's various donors and friends... from volunteers, to individuals and corporate sponsors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity, kindness and for sharing with us one vision and one purpose. Collectively, we have been able to do more.

GILBERTO R. DUAVIT JR.
President
GMA Foundation

WHEN we began Give a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy in 1998, it seemed like we would never survive another day and ever reach our targets. A donation of a single sack of toys was a great reason to celebrate.

Today, gifts for the unfortunate children nationwide have arrived in truckloads. As Give a Gift increases its intensity and scope, public support doubles and triples. It has been overwhelming. And we thank God for helping us every step of the way and teaching us to be good stewards of what is entrusted to GMA Foundation.

This year's Give a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy owes its success to the countless schools, donor companies, cooperating organizations, staff and volunteers of GMA Foundation. Without the perseverance of these hardworking people, we would not be able to reach our target of making 100,000 children nationwide happy. Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. I once took that step many years ago for GMA Foundation, and now I sincerely thank our devoted members and supporters for keeping the dream alive. May they continue to keep the flame of hope for the Filipino family burning.

I pray GMA Foundation and all other charitable organizations never tire of doing good.

God bless you all.

Carmen J. Ong

CARMEN JIMENEZ-ONG
Executive Director
GMA Foundation

Nakakain
ka na.
May pinakain
ka pa.
Goldilocks
35
taon ng alaalang masarap
1966-2001
Bumili ng mga produktong may Bitbit-Alay tag at pasayahin ang mga bata ng GMA Foundation ngayong Pasko.
Halina at maging thoughtful. Mag-Bitbit-Alay dito sa Goldilocks.
Duration: November 15, 2001 to January 6, 2002
BITBIT ALAY
Goldilocks
GMA foundation

Before
After

Water—from its integral role in a healthy diet to its indispensability to our everyday clear skin regimen, it is undoubtedly one of our most precious and most versatile resources. Avon recognizes the wonders of water by taking it one step further—not only as part of our daily beauty routine, but now as part of our wardrobe.

Introducing Avon's new ***Marjorie Water Bra***- the only bra that helps you go from cup A to cup B the most natural way!

Let's talk about the wonders of the Waterbra

The ***Marjorie Bra's*** unique feature is the removable "water" pads.

Unlike ordinary pads that may feel stiff and artificial, these innovative water pads mould to the natural contour of your breasts. That means they follow your curves no matter how you move! To help you make the most of your increased cup size, the ***Marjorie Water Bra*** has been designed with a demi-cup style and a push-up frame to create that cleavage you've always wanted. Not only does your bra size get a lift, so does your confidence in wearing necklines that bare a little more flesh for that sexier look. Get the ***Marjorie Water Bra*** today and experience for yourself the wonders that water can do. Contact your Avon Dealer to get the ***Marjorie Water Bra*** and other intimate apparel from Avon Fashions.

Simply slip the water pad into the pocket sewn discreetly in the cup of the bra.

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MEMBER
PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

The maid from hell and vultures in the Nida Blanca case

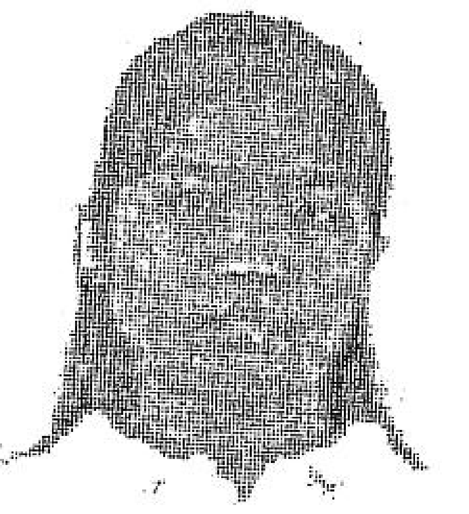
COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

THE LIFESTYLE editor was desperate to hire a maid, so upon a sister-in-law's recommendation, she got one through Personnel Management Services on J.P. Rizal in Makati City, which is owned by a **Luisa Benedicto.**

The maid that PMS supplied on Nov. 10 was supposed to be a jill-of-all-trades, and she was. As the editor's recently widowed mother found out two days later, **Alie Santos de Castro** could not only do all kinds of housework, she could also pull a fast trick.

On her third day on the job, De Castro spent the morning cleaning the bedrooms and, obviously, casing the joint. After lunch, the editor's mom went upstairs with her to fold the clean laundry. After a few minutes, De Castro said there were still some dirty clothes to wash downstairs. The editor's mother was left to finish the folding. It being a Monday, no one else was home save for mom and the cook. At around 2 p.m., De Castro called out to the cook who was taking a shower that she was going to the corner store to buy sanitary napkins. She never came back.

By 5 p.m. when the maid still had not returned, the editor's mother told the cook to inform PMS by phone that De Castro had not come back from her personal errand. They asked if PMS had heard from her. No, but the agency said they would call back as soon as they did.



ALIE Santos de Castro

When De Castro failed to return by the following day, police were notified that she was missing. It was later that afternoon that the editor's mother discovered that P31,000 was missing from her wallet—money that was to go toward paying bills incurred during the illness and recent death of her husband. Later, it was discovered that another P11,000 in cash, a watch and a mini disc player were missing from the other bedrooms. The theft was reported and a complaint filed against De Castro and PMS with the police.

As expected, PMS could not offer any help in finding De Castro. The address she gave on her application form simply said "Sta. Rosa, Laguna." Her NBI clearance had an address in Cainta, Rizal that appeared to be dubious. The agency did not take care to get a proper permanent address from De Castro. No background check was obviously conducted.

What are the Trade and Labor departments and the police doing to monitor the placement business? How easy is it for agencies like PMS to get a business permit from City Hall? What is the liability of an agency in a case like this? What is the PNP going to do about this case?

De Castro has to be found quickly so she can be prevented from pulling another fast one on unsuspecting employers. She is about 5 ft tall, weighs about 100 pounds, is pudgy and dark-complexioned with shoulder-length hair and speaks Tagalog with an Ilocano accent.

Tabloid tactics

PERHAPS it couldn't be helped. With the great public interest in the **Nida Blanca** case, the media threw all caution—and ethics—to the wind just to go to town with the story. The result was not exactly the media's proudest hour.

Take People's Tonight. It beat all the other sensationalistic tabloids by running the crime-lab photos of the battered, maimed and murdered Blanca. People who wonder if there are vultures in the press should look to the direction of People's Tonight.

Of course, there are vultures, too, in the Philippine National Police. How else could one explain how Tonight obtained the photographs, supposedly taken to aid the police in their investigation?

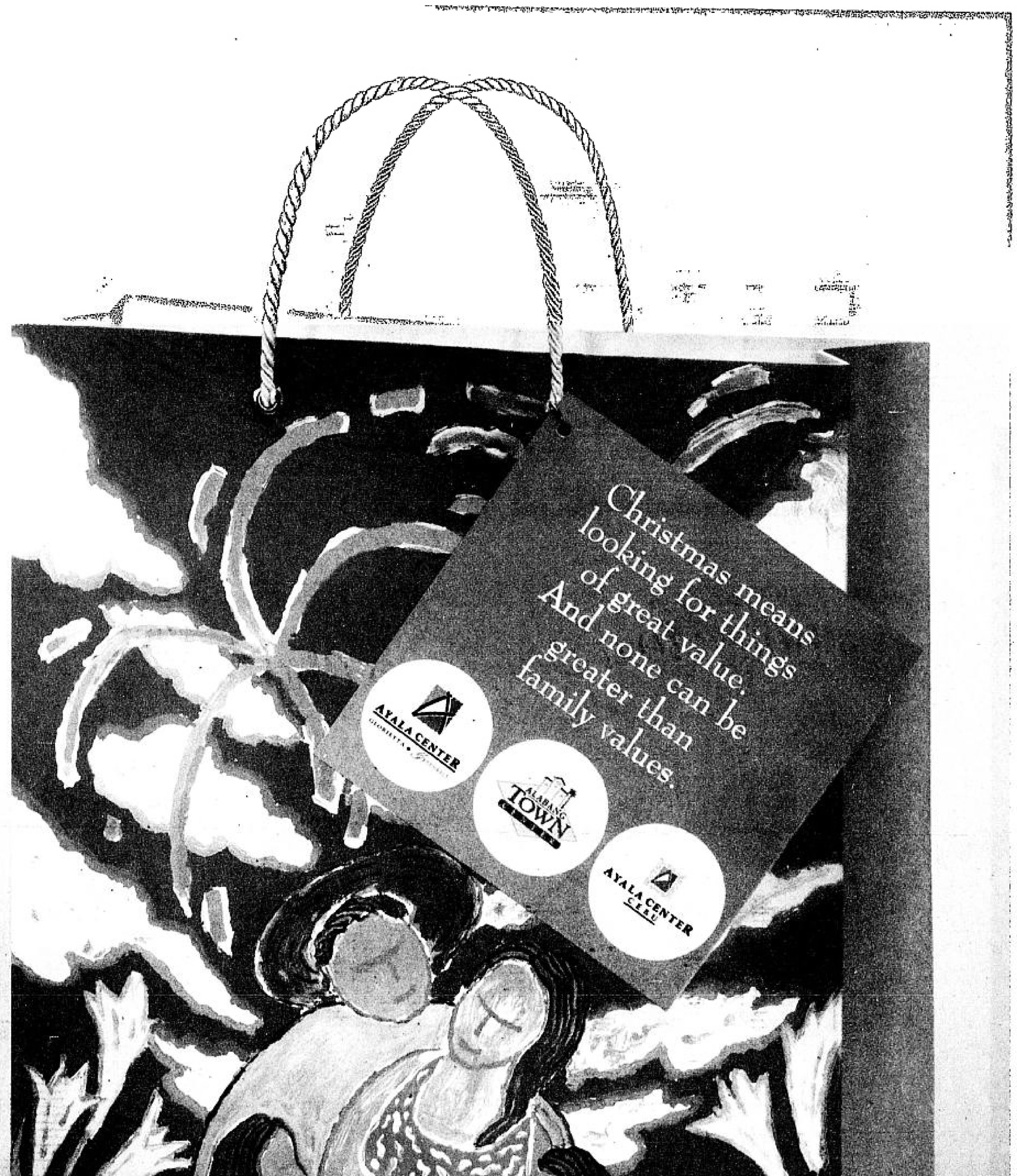
Calling Interior Secretary **Joey Lina** and PNP Chief Supt. **Leandro Mendoza.** Isn't it high time you cracked the whip on police officers who pander to the press and mess up the investigation of an important case by giving (or selling?) investigative photos to their lap dogs in media?

Come to think of it, isn't People's Tonight sequestered and its top men Malacañang appointees? So is the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's vision of good government served in any way by having yellow minds in its sequestered yellow press?

Wiz kid of radio

IN SOME instances, the media trivialized the Nida Blanca case by

THE MAID/p.H2


Christmas means looking for things of great value. And none can be greater than family values.
AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
ROBERT LABAYEN
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Celebrate the unity of family with "Joy to the World -- a Gift of Music from the Ayala Malls," a 12-day Christmas concert showcasing our best entertainers. Enjoy fireworks from Nov. 23 to Dec. 22 every Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. at Ayala Center Makati. At the Alabang Town Center, witness the display of lights every Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Beginning Dec. 1, 2001, get a commemorative shopping bag like the above for a minimum purchase.

Ayala Malls begin Christmas with a bang on Nov. 18

Welcome the most wonderful time of the year like you never have! With a festival of fireworks in the Ayala Malls on Nov. 18.

See the sky splashed with light, washed in hue and brushed with color!

And as you see the heavens painted in splendor, hear the music of Louie Ocampo frame the grand spectacle.

And the explosion doesn't stop there. If you miss the initial salvo, there are other shows to see from Nov. 23 to Dec. 22.

At the Ayala Center Makati, fireworks are on every Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. South of Manila, the display starts at 7 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday at the Alabang Town Center.

But don't miss the first grand show on Nov. 18. Take your family to the Ayala Malls and get front seats to fireworks at 7 p.m. after Mass at 5 and some musical entertainment at 6.

All these in Glorietta 4 Park of the Ayala Center Makati, the town plaza of Alabang Town Center and the lagoon area of the Ayala Center Cebu. Come and make your family's Christmas more memorable and meaningful.

The maid from hell and vultures in the Nida Blanca case

(From page H1)

giving the wrong information in the guise of authoritative commentary. A radio commentator said Blanca, who was Dorothy Jones in real life, was named after Judy Garland's character in the classic musical film, "The Wizard of Oz." He even added that it was the favorite film of Blanca's mom, **Inocencia Acueza**, now 88, that's why.

That is not possible because Blanca was born in 1936 and "The Wizard of Oz" was shown in 1939.

Dorothy was the name given by Blanca's American father, **William Jones II**.

He sees dead people

AN AM radio reporter annotating the events taking place at the wake also made a major blunder on the air. When he saw an old woman in a wheelchair entering the White Plains Chapel, the reporter announced, "*Ngayon, dumating na po dito sa* chapel *si* Doña Sisang," referring to the late **Narcisa de Leon**, matriarch and head of LVN Films, the studio that discovered Nida and produced her biggest movies.

The radio announcer receiving the news feed saved the day for the over-excited field reporter. "*Ano, buhay pa ba si* Doña Sisang? *Matagal nang patay 'yan! Alamin mo kung sino ang matandang 'yan. Hindi yan si Doña Sisang.*"

Bad timing

WILL someone please ask **Dante Jimenez** and other members of the Volunteer Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) Movement, to refrain from gate-crashing in the wake of people who met violent deaths?

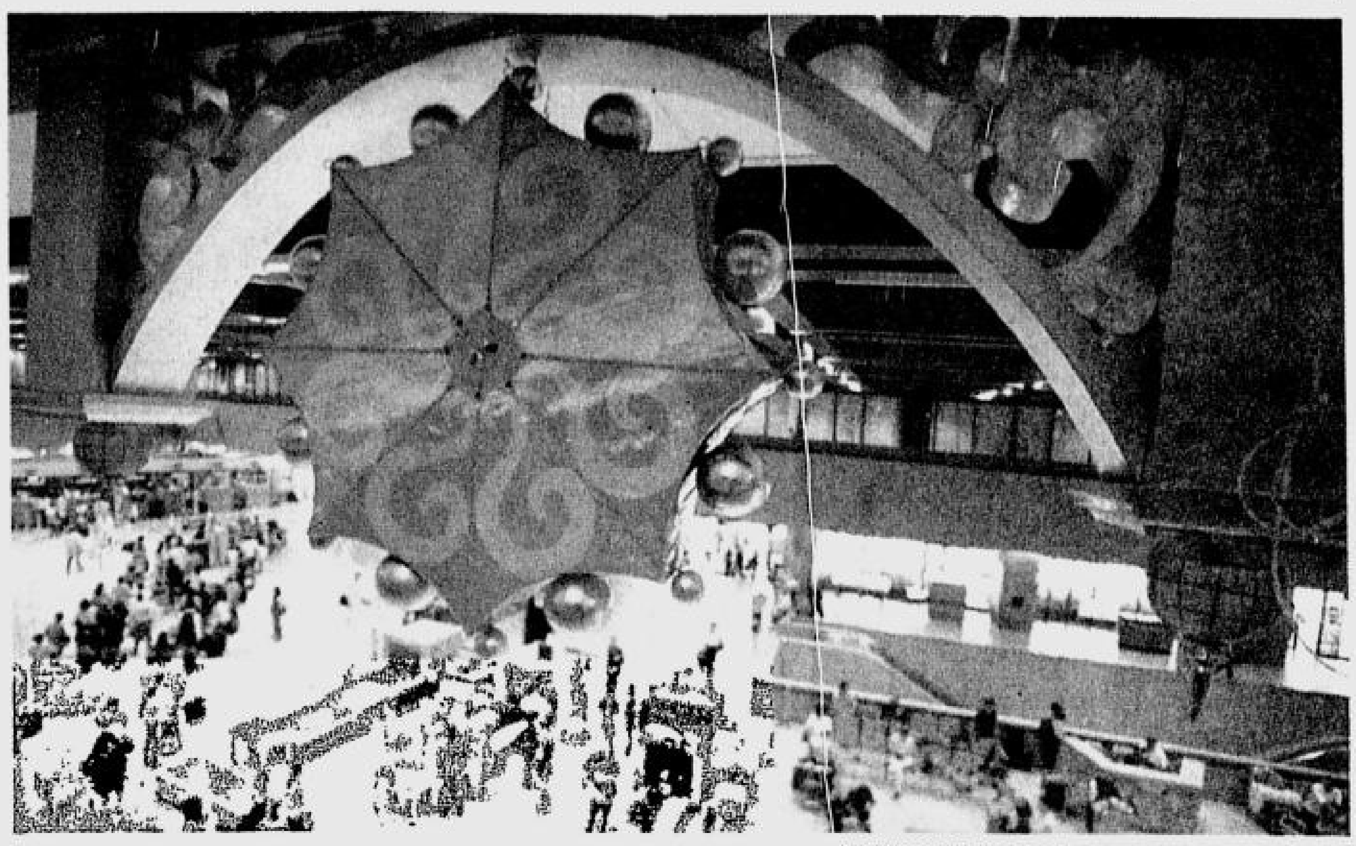
During Blanca's wake, Jimenez and **Lauro Vizconde**, accompanied by other VACC members, showed up at the White Plains Chapel. They vowed to help in solving the murder case of the actress.

Jimenez and his team arrived a little after noon, when everything was quiet inside the chapel. Naturally, when the media saw him there, Jimenez created a stir.

That has been Jimenez's wont and he has been strongly criticized for doing that, because except for the Vizconde case, the VACC has not helped in solving many celebrated murder cases.

Jimenez is apparently only after the media mileage he will get by being interviewed by print and TV reporters when he "promises" to help solve a case.

Why, he is not even close to Nida Blanca!



LANTERNS WORTH A MILLION. The Ninoy Aquino International and the Centennial Airports are filled with these lanterns, reportedly costing more than a million pesos. Are they worth it? We don't know. What we know is that they won't sugarcoat the poor services and facilities in the airports, such as dirty toilets and corrupt customs men.

ROGER MARGALLO

Fans who deserve murder

WHY, oh, why can't fans behave? During the funeral Mass last Wednesday at the Christ the King Chapel in Greenmeadows, the fans should have been dragged out of the chapel for breaking the solemnity of the event.

There were fans who were obviously there just to star-gaze, so that even in the middle of a prayer, when a star showed up inside the chapel, the fans would giggle and make a racket.

Cops from Station 8 in Project 4, QC, were deployed around the chapel. Some of them should have been inside so they could have thrown out the boisterous fans who didn't have the basic courtesy to respect the dead and the mourners.

There were also unruly fans at the White Plains Chapel during the wake. When former President **Joseph Estrada** and his son, **Jinggoy**, arrived at the chapel one night, the fans waved a placard which read, "Justice for Nida, Justice for Jinggoy."

Why? Was Jinggoy also a murder victim?

TV journalism's 'Matimtiman Cruz'

ABS-CBN's **Mariton Pacheco** was among the field reporters annotating the events during the burial of Blanca at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

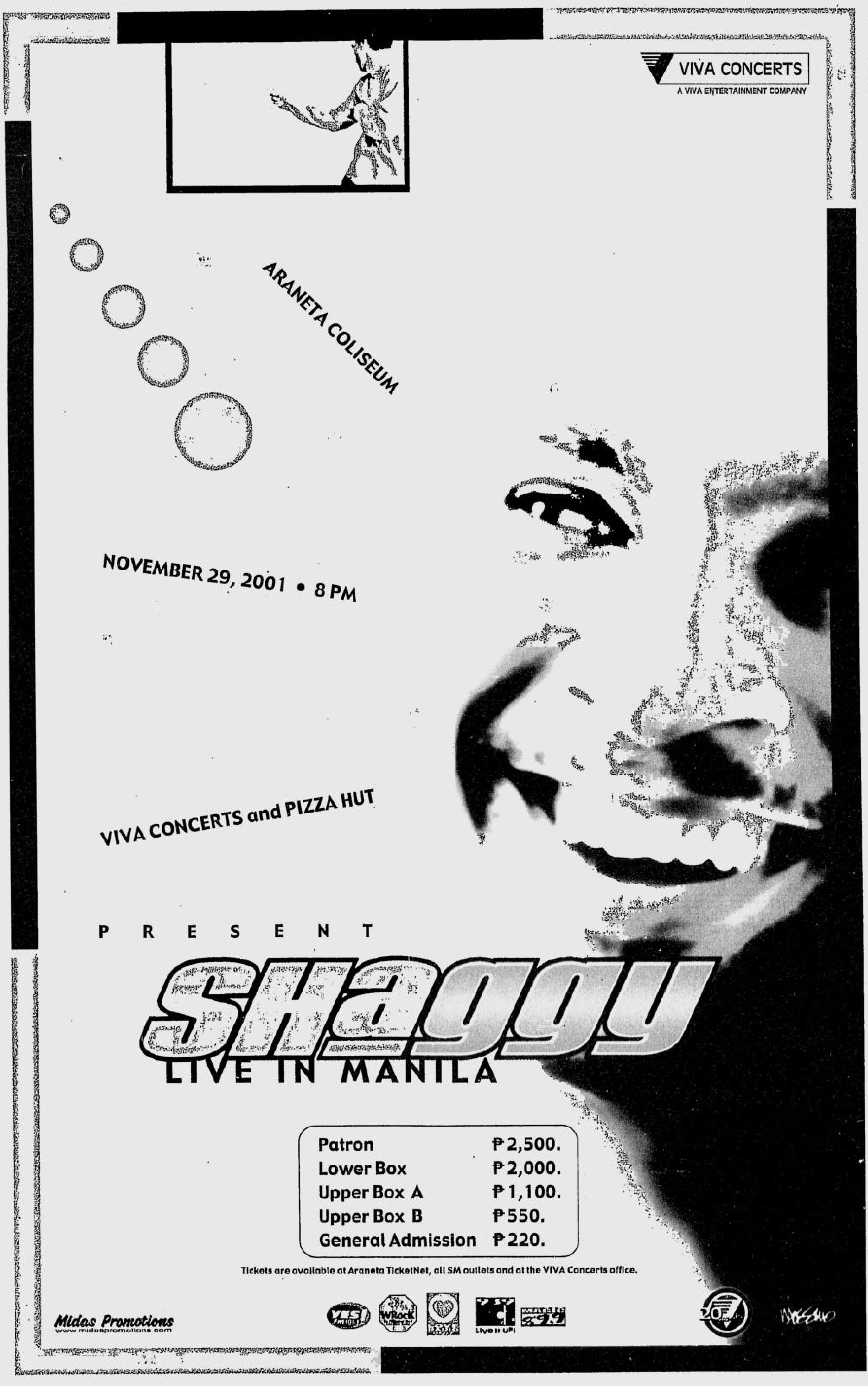
In one of her spiels, Mariton used as backdrop the Quizon mausoleum where members of the family of ace comedian **Dolphy** were buried.

Mariton apparently did her homework of finding out who were the other show-biz stars buried at Loyola Marikina. But in her rush to go on-cam so that the nation could admire her makeup, she failed to do enough homework. In her spiel, she said, "*Hanggang sa kanilang kamatayan, magkakasama pa rin ang mga artista dito sa* Loyola. *Si* Nida *ay makakapiling ng ilang mga artista na nakalibing din dito tulad nila* Jay Ilagan. *Nandito rin si* Matimtiman Cruz *na matagal niyang nakasama sa* 'John en Marsha'."

Mariton must have had her names mixed up. It was Matutina whom Nida worked with in the long-running sitcom.

Like Matimtiman Cruz, the TV reporter was "*mali-mali.*"

THE MAID/p.H3



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ARANETA COLISEUM

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General Admission	₱220.

Tickets are available at Araneta TicketNet, all SM outlets and at the VIVA Concerts office.

Midas Promotions
www.midaspromotions.com

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

S	O	N	T	A	G		M	A	P		A	B	E	L		T	W	I	S	T
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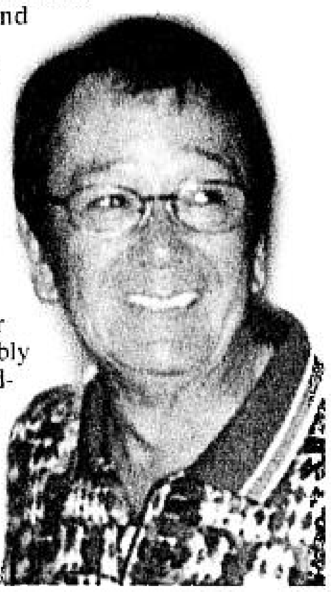
The maid from hell and vultures in the Nida Blanca case

(From page H2)

Truly Nida's leading man

MANY people, particularly old-timers and fans of the Nida Blanca-**Nestor de Villa** love team, were touched by De Villa's concern, grief and solicitude toward his erstwhile screen partner. De Villa had been there since Day 1 of the ordeal. He accompanied Nida's body to the crime laboratory, held vigil at her wake, and served as pallbearer during the funeral. Interviewed earlier by "I-Witness," he reminisced about the good times with her, broke down and wept.



NESTOR de Villa

Nida and Nestor never really got to transpose their reel romance to real life if only because they were the best of friends. Their chemistry was for real. Most probably it was their friendship that ensured the longevity of their love team. The nation will miss Nida, but it seems Nestor will miss her more.

Port of thieves

BEWARE of the car park at the Batangas City port. A Manila businessman who parked his car there en route to Puerto Galera for a weekend on the beach returned only to find his car plate missing. He was charged P1,000 for the four-day parking (P250 a day), but the Philippine Ports Authority, which runs the port, refused to face up to the responsibility. Neither did Lockheed Security, the agency contracted to guard the port. So who's to blame?

FREE SPEECH

Not-so-odd AdBoard

YOUR Week Waker-uppers (PDI Lifestyle, 11/11/01) included an item titled "Odd Adboard," which is based on incomplete and/or erroneous information, leading to the conclusion that we are an "odd board."

In the interest of truth and fairness, please note the following:

- The AdBoard is the umbrella organization overseeing the activities of nine member-associations under the principle of industry self-regulation. Its two principal tasks are the implementation of its Code of Ethics, which covers advertising content, and its Trade Practices Manual, which covers relations between the nine member-associations.

All AdBoard members are bound by the self-regulation principle to observe and uphold all the provisions of the above-named Code and Manual.

- On Oct. 14 and 15, the Belo Medical Group caused the publication in the PDI of the ad "Body by Belo, Flaunted by Rosanna." Its visual showed **Ms Roces** in a barebacked, meshed gown, which she wore at an entertainment awards night. Prominent in the visual was her bare buttocks.
- On Oct. 16, we called **Dr. Belo**'s attention to the ad.

Normally, had the Belo firm been a member of Pana (one of our member-associations) we could have imposed on them our prescribed penalty for "Airing/Publication without proper Adboard clearance." This we did not, even considering a previous violative ad. We did, however, issue a cease and desist order on the ad.

- On Oct. 19, a **Dexter Estacio** of Peanut Graphics, the ad design company for Belo, came over to present a "revised" visual, which had a plain black rectangle covering Ms Roces' bare buttocks. This we gave a "clearance to publish."
- On Oct. 21, the ad came out in the PDI. To our chagrin, the black rectangle carried the text: "Ordered covered by repressed moralists."

Clearly, this constituted a publication of unauthorized material, and we had no recourse but to issue a new CDO!

Your article's comment about our being "prudish" is certainly out of line. So also is the statement "it is doing nothing about tasteless TV ads." Please know that on the toilet tissue commercial, we did ask for a revision of the naughty jingle, which the concerned advertiser complied with.

All told, we have been doing our best to keep advertising content well within the bounds of our Code of Ethics. This is AdBoard's commitment to the advertising industry and to our mass audiences. And there's nothing odd about it.

(Sgd.) OSCAR T. VALENZUELA

DOT does its job

THIS is in reply to the item on Week Waker-uppers titled "Tourism basics neglected" (PDI Lifestyle, 11/04/01).

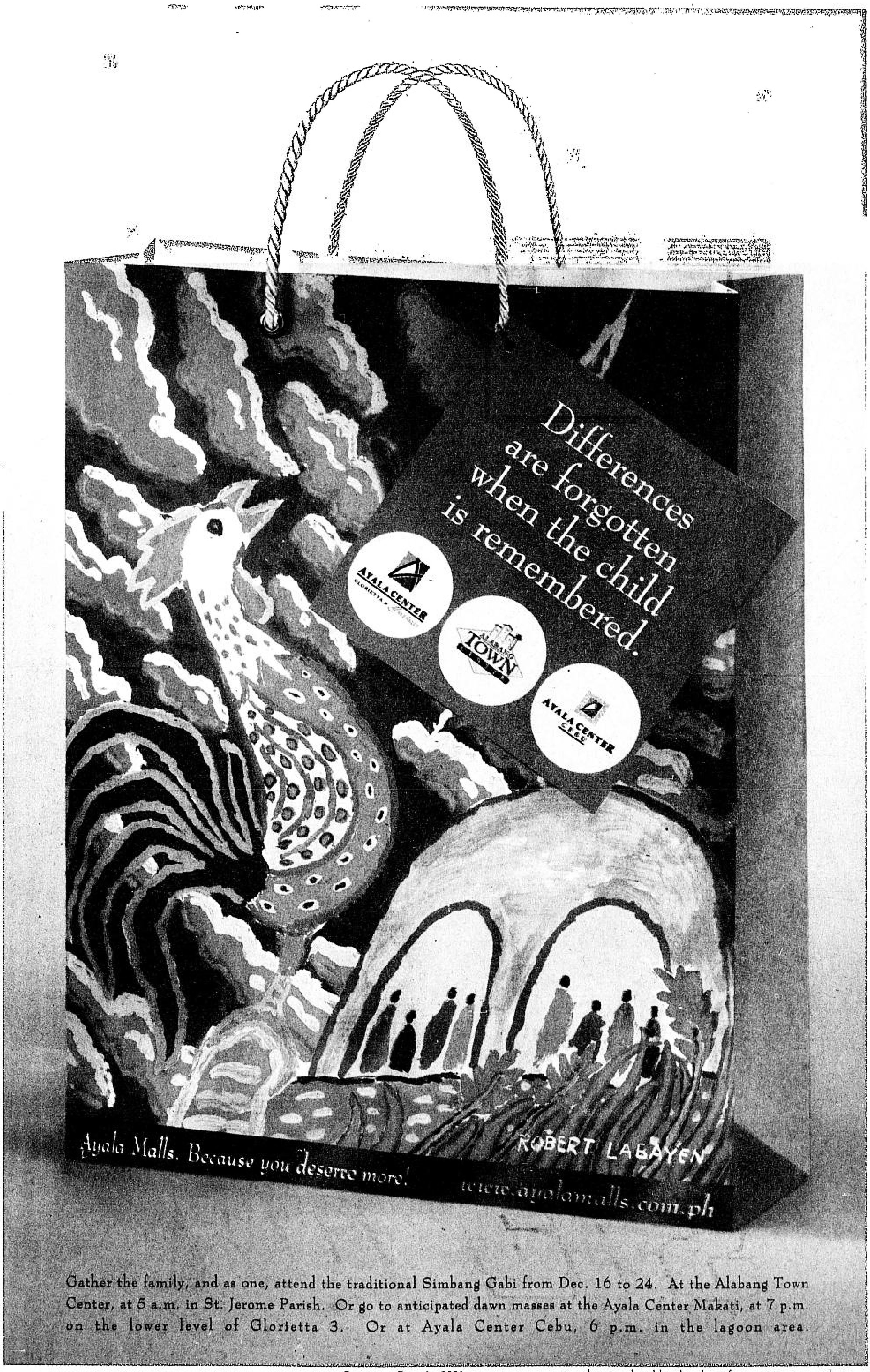
The item mentioned the sorry state of the toilet facility beside the Philippine National Police Academy in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. I wish to inform you that the facility was funded by the Department of Tourism in 1994 and was turned over through a memorandum of agreement to the Philippine National Police Academy through the Department of Interior and Local Government for operation and maintenance.

The Department of Tourism initiated the construction of public toilets in priority areas in 1993 and turned over some of these facilities to the local government units or partner government institutions for onsite management and maintenance to ensure the sustainability and long-term use of these public facilities.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), on the other hand, is mandated to oversee the efficient operation and maintenance of the facilities operating in airport terminals 1 and 2. The DOT, for its part, has led the effort to assist the MIAA to keep the terminals visitor-friendly, efficient and clean as part of our common policy to optimize the quality of airport services in the country's premier airport.

We have communicated our own concerns to the above-mentioned institutions for their appropriate action. We shall inform you of future developments.

(Sgd.) OSCAR P. PALABYAB
Undersecretary and officer in charge
Department of Tourism



Differences are forgotten when the child is remembered.
AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
ROBERT LABAYEN
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more!
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Gather the family, and as one, attend the traditional Simbang Gabi from Dec. 16 to 24. At the Alabang Town Center, at 5 a.m. in St. Jerome Parish. Or go to anticipated dawn masses at the Ayala Center Makati, at 7 p.m. on the lower level of Glorietta 3. Or at Ayala Center Cebu, 6 p.m. in the lagoon area.

Beginning Dec. 1, 2001, get a commemorative shopping bag like the above for a minimum purchase.

Ayala Malls sing to the start of Christmas on Nov. 18

Carols will again fill the air as the Ayala Malls open the season of Christmas! Watch a musicfest at 6 p.m. that will surely make your spirit soar.

Taking you to Christmases past when things seemed simpler. Bringing you back to the present, with the family in your arms, helping you make the moment spent with them more meaningful.

And that's just the curtain-raiser.

"Joy to the World -- a Gift of Music from the Ayala Malls" is the year's main event, a 12-day Christmas concert series showcasing only the best performers of the land.

A concert that will not only be held admittedly for your pleasure, but also in honor of many organizations that have helped our country be a better place to live in, like Centex, Batang Munti and God Made Me Foundation.

So take your loved ones to the Ayala Malls. And before the stirring harmonies on Nov. 18, hear Mass at 5, and at 7, be enchanted with fireworks.

All these in Glorietta 4 Park of the Ayala Center Makati, the town plaza of Alabang Town Center and the lagoon area of the Ayala Center Cebu.

FRANCIS Reyes, Robert Yap and Reg

DIRECTOR Mark Reyes and talent manager Lyn Tamayo

MODEL Derrick Ramsey and Anne Matoto

RICO Blanco and Mike Elger of Rivermaya

Model hopefuls get spotlight

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

HOSTED by **Sarah Meier**, "Fashionista" is a hit on MTV Philippines. In keeping with the show's trendy and fashionable image, Smart and the music channel, in cooperation with JAG jeans, presented the first-ever Best Model Search 2001 last Wednesday at The Fort.

Twenty gorgeous male and female aspiring models strutted their stuff and projected their best attitudes. **2tay** stood out not only because of her unusual name. She ran off with the best female model award. Hunky **Eric** won in the male division. **Geoff Briz** was Smart's top model pick. Muscular **Oscar DJ de Guzman** was first runner-up and best in evening wear.

The fast-paced presentation hosted by **KC Montero** and **Meier** was directed by **Robbie Carmona**. Stage lighting director was **John Batalla.**

SARAH Meier

GEOFF Briz

FASHION designer Jojie Lloren

MARCO Lobregat

ALEX Aquino

PATRICK Reyno and Celine Lopez

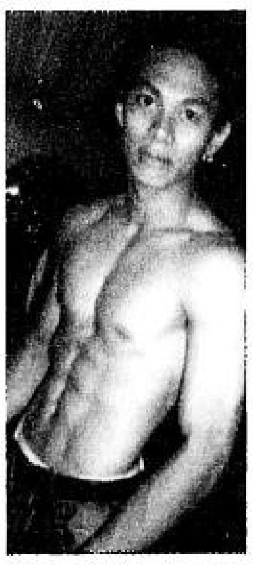
JUNNEL Liwanag

ROD Nepomuceno

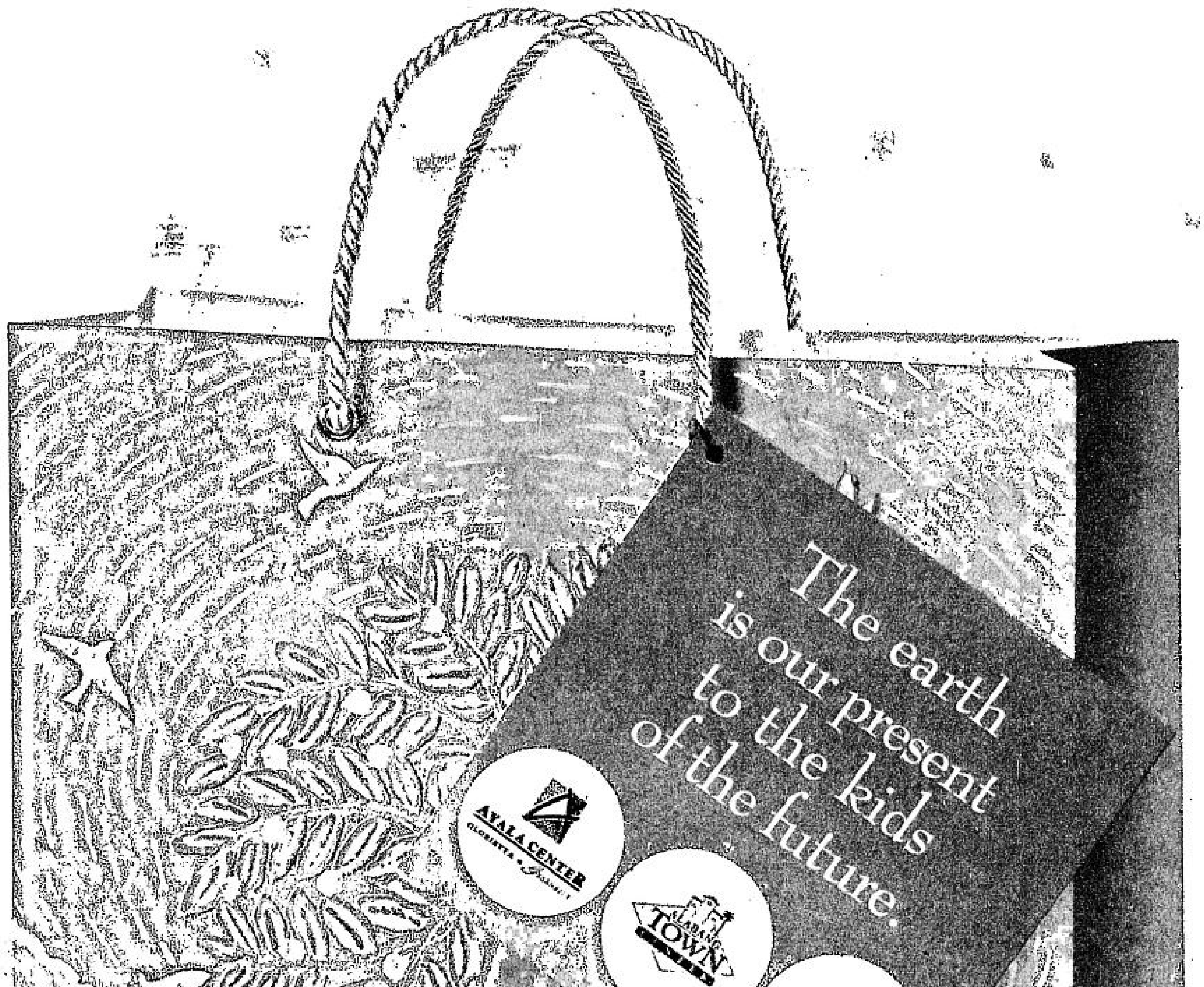
MR. and Ms Xander Angeles

LANA Asanin

VJ KC Montero



OSCAR DJ de Guzman



For making our world even just a bit better, Centex, Batang Munti and God Made Me Foundation will be among the beneficiaries of this year's Ayala Malls Christmas celebration.

Beginning Dec. 1, 2001, get a commemorative shopping bag like the above for a minimum purchase.

Ayala Malls light the way to Christmas on Nov. 18

Ushering in the Christmas season in the Philippines, the Ayala Malls will be turning on the lights of all its Christmas lanterns on Nov.18.

Be dazzled with the shimmer of a hundred stars as they light the mall sky. Each reflecting the glow of the Star of Bethlehem, it's impossible not to be enchanted with the dance of colors.

And to really feel the warmth of the blessed holidays, don't miss the Simbang Gabi. At the Alabang Town Center, it's at 5 a.m. in St. Jerome Parish from Dec. 16 to 24. You may even choose to go to anticipated dawn masses instead at the Ayala Center Makati at 7 p.m. on the lower level of Glorietta 3, or at the Ayala Center Cebu at 6 p.m. in its lagoon area. But first, take your family to the Ayala Malls on Nov. 18.

Take part in the Ayala Malls Christmas celebration with a Mass at 5 p.m., some musical entertainment, and fireworks to cap the evening.

All these in Glorietta 4 Park of the Ayala Center Makati, the town plaza of the Alabang Town Center and the lagoon area of the Ayala Center Cebu.

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MANAGERIAL

PHILAM PROPERTIES

Take the challenge of joining a growing multinational real estate company as it strives to be at the forefront of property development and management.

We are actively seeking for high-caliber individuals from reputable universities who have the drive and skills to deliver results in a fast-paced environment.

BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER (BOM)

- Will be responsible for the technical operations of all Philamlife buildings nationwide, including the 46-storey Philamlife Tower
- Must have a strong Chief Engineer's background preferably in a 5-star hotel industry
- Preferably P.M.E. or P.E.E.
- With at least 5-7 years engineering experience in high rise building
- With strong background in Fire Life Safety Systems and Computerized Energy Management Systems
- Experience in implementing Preventive Maintenance Program

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR (BA)

- Must be an Engineering graduate
- With at least 3 years experience in building, facility or premises management and administration
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Willing to work extended hours if warranted
- Computer literate

BUILDING SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN (BST)

- With at least 3 years experience working as a building technician
- With strong background in maintaining and troubleshooting building electro-mechanical systems and controls (e.g. pumps, cooling tower)
- Familiar with machineries and equipment in a hotel or high-rise building
- Willing to work extended hours if warranted

RECEPTIONIST (R)

- With very pleasing personality
- At least 5'4" in height
- At least 3rd year college
- Female

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo. Please affix the job code on the envelope.

The Recruitment Officer, Philam Properties Corp., 9th Floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

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UNITED GRAPHIC *Expression* CORPORATION

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IS IN NEED OF

ASSISTANT SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- At least 5 years of Sales & Marketing experience in the printing or allied industry.
- Strong leadership and management abilities to lead a sizeable Sales & Marketing group
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Extensive customer relation ability and experience
- Not more than 40 years old
- Pleasing personality

MARKET RESEARCH SPECIALIST

- At least 2 years experience in market research works both as field and desk researcher
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Preferably female, not more than 35 years old
- Pleasing personality

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- At least 2 years of selling experience
- Very good oral communications and customer relation skills
- Hardworking and pro-active
- Male or female
- Pleasing personality
- Driving license required

ACCOUNTANT

- Not more than 40 years old
- With experience in "FACT" software application
- Experience of at least 5 years in Accounting Supervision

PRESS SUPERVISORS

- Must be a graduate of B.S. Industrial Engineering
- Minimum of 2 years supervisory experience or equivalent in a printing or related industry
- Excellent written/verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Thorough knowledge of press and post press operations is required

ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

- Must be a graduate of B.S. Electronics and Communications Engineering
- With sound mechanical aptitude and hands-on experience on maintenance of manufacturing equipment
- High level of analytical ability
- Appropriate interpersonal styles and communication methods is required
- Knowledge of computer hardware as it pertains to manufacturing preferred

Send your resumé with latest photo at United Graphic Expression Corporation, Dasmariñas Technopark, Governor's Drive, Dasmariñas, Cavite, or e-mail at hr@ugecorp.com.

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DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A DEALER OF CHOICE...?
then here's the one you're waiting for!

We are in search of Top Caliber Teammembers to fill in our Job Vacancies

I. In House Instructor (TSI)

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'7" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- must have at least 2 years experience as a trainor
- with driver's license (professional)
- with supervisory work experience
- with 2 years experience in automotive workshop operations
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

II. Reception Head Trainee (TSI)

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'8" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- preferably with 2 years automotive experience in a frontline position
- with experience in auto repairs and maintenance
- with professional driver's license
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

III. Building Electrician (TSI)

- male, not more than 30 years old
- graduate of Master Electrician
- with 3 years experience as building electrician
- knowledgeable with PABX system, electronics

IV. Personnel Assistant (TSO)

- female, Psychology graduate, not more than 27 years old
- computer literate
- with pleasing personality

V. Estimator (TSO)

- Mechanical Engineer graduate, not more than 27 years old
- Must have at least 1 year experience in vehicle collision repair estimate
- Preferably living within the vicinity of Mandaluyong and Pasig City

VI. EDP Assistant (TSO)

- male, not more than 27 years old
- Computer Science graduate
- must have at least 1 year experience in the same field
- knowledgeable in PC trouble shooting

VII. WAREHOUSEMAN (TSI)

- college level, male, not more than 28 years old
- knowledge on spare parts would be an advantage
- at least 5'7" in height with Professional Driver's License
- with at least 2 years experience as stock/storage clerk

....So don't miss this kind of opportunity! Interested applicants may apply and bring their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photograph at:

TOYOTA SHAW, INC. (TSI)
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
411 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Items # I—III & VII

TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
124 E.Rodriguez Jr. Avenue
Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Items # IV—VI

NOTE: Please apply Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM only.
PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.

ORIENTAL & MOTOLITE
MARKETING CORPORATION

Promotions Manager

- Graduate of a reputable university.
- At least 25 years old, male or female
- With extensive experience in handling promotions, preferably, rewards-type programs.
- Presently holds a supervisor or manager position.
- Excellent in oral and written communications.
- Comfortable with numbers (math & statistics).

E-mail your resumé to:
rbreyes@motolite.com

You may also apply personally at: **The Corporate Recruitment Section**
Ramcar Center 80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 412-1290 / 373-1234

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Qualifications:
- Female, preferably single
- Graduate of any business degree course from a good school
- Proficient in making business correspondence and knowledgeable in office procedures
- Must be computer literate
- Must have at least one (1) year work experience
- With good command in English language
- Excellent communication skills

ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications:
- CPA with at least 1 year work experience
- Must not be more than 30 years old
- Must have a good employment track record
- Male or Female

CUSTOMER RESPONSE TEAM (CRT)

Qualifications:
- Female, single, between 21 to 25 years old
- Must be college graduate from a reputable school
- Fluent in English language and good interpersonal skills
- Computer literate

Due to the urgency of the need, qualified applicants must come for interview together with their resumé, transcript of records and recent photo on Monday and Wednesday, November 19 and 21, 2001 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at:

2nd Floor, The Fili Estate
Belvedere Towers
No. 15 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
Look for: Ms. Sigrid Magsino

Job-opening for:

FIELD INTERVIEWERS

(per project basis)

Qualifications:

Single, Male or Female, 20-27 years old
College level or College graduate
With excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Tagalog
Knowledge of other dialects is a plus
With pleasing, outgoing personality
Willing to work on-field
No work experience required

Comprehensive training will be given

Apply in person with resumé and current photo:

Suite 603 Richmonde Plaza
21 San Miguel Avenue corner
Lourdes Street, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Look for *Khor*

Multinational Corporation supplying the Construction Industry with Architectural commodity products invites applicants for the position of

WAREHOUSE MANAGER

- Responsible for receiving all inward bound international shipments and scheduling of local deliveries
- Accountable for inventory accuracy
- Experienced with procedures of Occupational Health & Safety policies and their implementation
- Ability to manage and motivate staff
- Ability to develop a framework of systems and procedures to document and control the storage of all stock including FIFO and OTIFIC principles
- Capable of operating a forklift
- Male with at least 10 years experience in warehouse management and handling of commodity items.

Applicants should, in the 1st instance, provide a copy of their resume including 1X1 current photograph, accompanied with a letter of application providing contact details and personally apply or send applications at:

BORAL PLASTERBOARD PHILIPPINES
Keynet Compound, Mercury Ave., cor.
E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis,
Quezon City 1110

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

MANAGERIAL / TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

The Aristocrat Restaurant

The country's Most Popular Restaurant

In its pursuit to continuously provide high quality food and excellent service accepts highly effective individuals with expertise in the following positions:

CHEF

Male, at least 28 years old, with at least two years experience in the position, specializes in International cuisine e.g. Italian, French, Chinese, Japanese.

PARTIES & CATERING OFFICER

Male/female, at least 25 years old, preferably HRM graduate, with at least two years experience and with existing client base/network, computer literate.

MARKETING OFFICER

Male/female, at least 25 years old, graduate of Marketing or related course, creative, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, computer literate.

SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Male/female, at least 25 years old, preferably HRM graduate, with at least two years supervisory experience in food service, at least 5'4", with strong but pleasing personality and above-average communication skills both in Filipino and English.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

Male/female, at least 28 years old, graduate of Industrial Engineering, with at least three years experience in a manufacturing facility.

FOOD TECH

Male/female, at least 28 years old, preferably Food Tech graduate, with at least three years experience in a manufacturing facility.

CHEMIST

Male/female, at least 28 years old, preferably BS Chemistry graduate, with at least three years experience in a manufacturing facility.

TAKE OUT/DELIVERY COUNTER LEADER

Male/female, at least 21 years old, college level, preferably with experience in food service, at least 5'4", with strong but pleasing personality, with good communication skills both in Filipino and English and knowledgeable in leaflet design.

NURSE

Preferably male, at least 25 years old, BSN graduate registered with PRC, with at least two years experience, with pleasing personality, patient and hardworking.

Interested applicants may send their resumé with Transcript of Records and 2x2 picture at Personnel Administration Department, Roxas Food Ventures, Inc., 432 San Andres, Malate, Manila.

A WELL-ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

SENIOR EDUCATOR

Code: R - SE

- Female, between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year Business related course
- Minimum of one (1) year experience in a similar capacity, handling ***seminars & trainings related to customer service, cosmetics & toiletries***
- With very strong leadership qualities and interpersonal skills
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Possesses a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Computer literate

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

P.O. Box 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Bldg. B, Megamall,
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview.)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE.

We are a global provider of expert outsourced customer support and e-business services, with offices throughout the United States and Southeast Asia.

We need competent individuals for the position:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Candidates must have a basic understanding of computers and the Internet. They must speak English fluently; American accent is preferred. Sales experience is helpful but not required. Knowledge of cars or the automotive industry is a plus.

We will only entertain candidates from reputable schools.

Please send resumés to:

P.O. Box No. 72, Greenhills Post Office,
1502 Metro Manila

Or call: 637-8520 local 213 during office hours on weekdays.

TRACE GROUP OF COMPANIES

TRACE Computer & Business College East Cloverleaf corner
P. Victor Streets, Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City near MRT Guadalupe Station
E-mail: tracepersonnel@yahoo.com

We are young but dynamic organization with diversified lines including IT based Education, Service Contracting, Staffing, Franchising and Marketing. We believe in tapping young and talented people whom we build as future managers in our continuous expansion.

(5) FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR

☒ Specializing Niponggo Language

(5) STORE SUPERVISOR (for Kodak outlet expansion)

☒ At least 5'4" in height
☒ Female, between 25 to 30 years old
☒ Graduate of any Business Course, with pleasing personality
☒ Highly organized and results-oriented
☒ Flexible, strong leadership and organizational skills
☒ Goal-oriented and can motivate sales people to excel

(9) SALES STAFF (for Kodak outlet expansion)

☒ Female, 21 to 25 years old
☒ College graduate, with pleasing personality

(3) EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

☒ 21 to 26 years old
☒ Independent, organized and results-oriented
☒ Excellent letter writing ability

(3) REGISTRAR STAFF

☒ Male/Female, with experience, not more than 30 years old
☒ Highly organized and results-oriented
☒ Excellent in written and communication skills

(2) INTERNAL AUDITOR (CPA)

(2) ACCOUNTANT (CPA)

Applicants may apply in person or send e-mail at the above address with complete credentials.

Stores Specialists, Inc.

IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES FOR

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER (Code: S-TSM)

☑ Between 27-40 years old
☑ Must be a Licensed Interior Designer or Architect
☑ Must have been involved in store design
NOTE: **Please submit portfolio of works especially on store design**
☑ Must be able to develop standards for Interior Design and Architectural works
☑ Must have at least two (2) years experience in handling renovation works including bidding and evaluation, program scheduling, inspection and quality control
☑ Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
☑ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
☑ Must be computer literate, specifically capable to design in Autocad

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo thru mail to:

Personnel Department
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Quezon City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE INDICATE POSITION CODE

An established and fast growing infrastructure/utility corporation is looking for:

I. **Corporate Legal Officer I**, who must be:
- Lawyer
- With one (1) year experience in the practice of law
- Preferably with related training of at least 36 hours in legal works

II. **Legal Researcher I**, who must be:
- Graduate of Bachelor of Laws
- With one (1) year experience in legal research works
- Preferably with related training of at least 20 hours in legal works

A competitive compensation package awaits you. Interested applicants are invited to send their applications together with curriculum vitaé, diploma, transcript of records and recent passport-sized photo to:

Admin/HR Department
PEA Tollway Corporation
G/F Bayview International Tower III,
Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City

A Telecommunications/Call Center Company in Ortigas Center serving prime companies in the United States needs the following:

FINANCE MANAGER

- Male or female, 35 years old and above
- Must be a CPA with at least 5 years work experience in a Customer Service environment
- Working knowledge of all facets of Finance specifically taxation, financial planning and analysis
- Well-organized and is willing to work long hours
- Strong leadership qualities and highly analytical
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral

ASSISTANT HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- Male or female, 27 years old and above
- Graduate of any Behavioral Science course, preferably with masteral/law units
- 3-5 years relevant Managerial experience
- With strong labor relations skills and adept in all aspects of HR and Administrative Operations
- Must be equipped with excellent communication, presentation, negotiation, and people management skills

TRAINING MANAGER

- Graduate of a Communication or Psychology course
- 3-5 years experience in creating, conducting, and evaluating training programs in a customer service environment
- Experience in developing training materials with "adult education" techniques
- Excellent presentation, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Open to shifting schedules in conducting training programs
- Must possess strong leadership and management skills

CALL CENTER AGENTS

- Male or female, 20-27 years old
- College graduate, preferably Mass Communication, English, Linguistics or Marketing
- With pleasing and dynamic personality
- High level of English communication skills (to interact with US clients)
- Computer literate
- Willing to work on shifts
- Experience in tele-selling/sales an advantage

NETWORK OPERATIONS ENGINEER

- Graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering
- Minimum of 1-2 years experience in the Telco industry (Switch Operations and Maintenance)
- Experience in Hardware/Software support
- Willing to work on shifts

We offer above-industry compensation, generous benefit packages and career leverage through training and development.
Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send their resumé with recent photo to:
P.O. Box 13906 Ortigas Center, Pasig City
or e-mail to: jobsnov_hr@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEERS

For Industrial Safety Products and Allied Items

Qualifications:

☑ Male, not more than 30 years old
☑ Preferably graduate of a 5-year Mechanical and Civil Engineering course or Marketing
☑ At least 1 year sales/working experience
☑ Team player, goal-oriented, hardworking, trainable, flexible, and with a positive attitude toward work, can be developed to supervisory position in a short period of time
☑ Fluent in English and Tagalog
☑ Willing to travel and be assigned to a specified area
☑ Having a car is an advantage

Interested applicants are requested to send their application letter (addressed to the Personnel Manager), and resumé with recent photo at:

Fax: **(632) 724-8732** E-mail: **hrd_safety@hotmail.com**

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Founded in 1865, we are a well established international trading firm with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, and with 70 branches & Subsidiaries worldwide. Our main activities are trading & marketing Raw and Industrial Materials, Technology and Consumer Goods. We are in **URGENT** need of a:

- **Service Engineer**
- **Sales/Applications Engineer**

For the Laboratory Instruments Department (LAB)

Qualifications for Service Engineer:
- male, 21 to 30 years old
- ECE or EE graduate
- With or without working experience

Qualifications for Sales/Applications Engineer:
- Male or female, 21 to 30 years old
- With good background in Chemistry
- Pref. with work experience related to the pos. to be filled

Applicants must be:
- Computer literate
- With good communications skills
- Must have the ability to work independently and without supervision

We offer excellent remuneration and benefits packaged for the selected applicant. Interested applicants may e-mail or fax their detailed resumé to our office.

SiberHegner (Philippines) Inc.
Unit 605, Summit One Office Tower
530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Phone +63-2-533 9890 to 92 / 718 16 24 / 718 1727
Fax +63-2-718 16 25
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- **CONTENT WRITERS**
- **NIGHT SHIFT OFFICE MANAGER**

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and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

DAVID'S SALON
THE BEST IN EUROPEAN HAIRDRESSING
The Biggest Salon Group in the Philippines

David's Salon Inc. is inviting applicants

for SALON TRAINEES

Females of pleasing personality
At least high school graduate
18-30 years old
Willing to be assigned anywhere within Metro Manila & accept provincial assignment

Experience not necessary. Successful applicants will be trained by David's for manicurists, facialist and leg waxing positions in its salons.

Interested applicants may come from Mondays to Wednesdays every week, at 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., together with their comprehensive resumé and 2x2 picture to the address below:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
DAVID'S SALON INC.
2/F Petrona Bldg. #1407 Angono St.
JP Rizal, Makati City
(Behind Makati City Hall)

Looking for a Challenging and Rewarding Career with a fast-expanding Multi-National Company?

A financially strong and well-established Multi-National Company engaged in the manufacture and distribution of roofing materials and a market leader, has immediate vacancies for the following positions to be located at its Makati Office.

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES

Circa: Above Php 250,000 per annum plus Commissions and Allowances

REQUIREMENTS:

- Preferably a degree holder in Architecture or Civil Engineering
- Age between 28 to 40 years, Male or Female
- Minimum 5 years sales experience in the building supplies trade
- Good contacts with building developers and architects is essential
- Pleasant personality and strong interpersonal skills
- Hardworking, aggressive and a team player
- Possess Valid Driver's License

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Circa: Above Php200,000 per annum plus Allowances and Benefits

REQUIREMENTS:

- Preferably a degree holder in Marketing or Business
- Age between 28 to 40 years, Male or Female
- Minimum 3 years experience in Marketing Support Services
- Strong research, communication and reporting skills
- Computer literate, knowledge in Microsoft Office, Excel and Power Point is essential
- Good command of oral and written English

Our company offers excellent career advancement opportunities. Applicants without the necessary qualifications and experience as well as the drive and ambition to succeed will not be suitable for these positions.

Candidates should fax their resumé to 813-1704 or send resumé and recent 2x2 picture to the Marketing Director at Unit B, 2/F Emmanuel House, 115 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200 not later than **November 30, 2001**.

Dow AgroSciences, an affiliated company of Dow Chemical Company, USA, is a leading multinational company operating globally with business in North America, Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. The Company's product range includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, plan nutrition aid, plant growth regulator, fumigant, seeds and industrial non-crop pesticides and provides innovative urban pest solution for Domestic and commercial building protection. The Company invites suitably qualified professional to fill a position of:

Customer Service Representative/ Supply Chain Specialist

TASKS

- Execute and manage the order receipt and handling (ORH) process with customers
- Provide timely and accurate services to meet customer requirements
- Create and manage the operation plans for country's supply chains and inventory
- Facilitate sales & operations planning process for assigned finished products
- Source of leadership and innovation within the supply chain process.

REQUIREMENTS

- 25-32 years old
- Relevant experience in customer service, order fulfillment and/or supply planning
- Effective communication skills
- Positive attitude
- Strong inter personal skills and versatility in dealing with different people
- Degree in Bachelor of Science with emphasis either on Accounting, Customer Service, Marketing, Sales or Business Administration
- Computer proficient
- A result-oriented individual
- Strong analytical, problem-solving skills
- Ability to lead and a team player in a diverse environment.

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT
Reply at first instance to:
Human Resources Dept.
P.O. Box 1587
Makati Central Post Office
1255 Makati City

FESTIVA AUTOSPHERE CORP.

IS IN NEED OF:

1 - SALES SUPERVISOR
10 - CAR SALESMEN

TO HANDLE MARKETING OF QUALITY RECONDITIONED SUZUKI MULTICAB PICK-UP, F/B BODY, PASSENGER TYPE & TOYOTA LITE-ACE.

Interested applicants must have selling experience preferably in the Automotive Industry. Apply in person and bring your RESUMÉ with two 2x2 pictures at:

2316 Aurora Boulevard (Formerly Tramo), Pasay City
Beside KIA Motor Sales Corp.
Tel. Nos. 891-6334 or 834-1271 locs. 117/112

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

International Service Company wants

ACCOUNTANTS

Several positions to be filled

- 25 years old and below
- New Graduates welcome
- CPA only

Ready to work long hours (even at night) if required
The following applies to all positions

- **Very competitive salary;**
- **Good Career Opportunities;**
- **New Office Building in Ortigas Center;**
- **Willing to work long hours when necessary;**
- **Female candidates only;**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The following skills required

- College Graduate with previous experience
- Speed typing and filing skills
- Superior skills at following up
- Good English
- Previous references
- 30 years old and below

The following skills a plus

- Accounting background;
- Pleasing personality;
- Can use Microsoft Excel;

Requirements for all positions: Resumé, transcript of records, Copy of CPA Licensure Exam result (if applicable), 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your email address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad.

Send requirements to: The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box #14233, Ortigas Center Post Office, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

You may also email requirements to **personnel@msocorporation.com**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Degree in Electrical Engineering, preferably licensed
- With at least 2 to 3 years experience in Building Management System
- Must have knowledge in computer programming and basic electronic components
- Must have established a good network of contacts and have strong relationship with major contractors and consultants
- Good communication skills, oral and written

SALES SECRETARY

- Female, 24 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least 3 to 5 years experience as a Secretary preferably in Sales and Marketing
- Above average in oral and written communication and computer skills
- Proficient in business correspondence, travel arrangement and documentation
- Honest, hardworking and with pleasing personality

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Female, 21 to 28 years old
- BSBA or BSC graduate
- With at least 1 year experience in administrative work including purchasing and personnel administration
- Must be computer literate
- Personable, resourceful and innovative

Please send resumé with 2x2 picture to the attention of the HRD, MCPO 1443 Makati Central Post Office.

Rx MEDICard

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

• PHILHEALTH OFFICER

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
- Between 25 to 35 years of age;
- Must have at least 1 year related work experience gained in HMO or insurance setting;
- Computer literate with good interpersonal skills.

• VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMER

- Graduate of four (4) years Computer related course;
- With 2 years programming experience;
- Working knowledge in MS SQL Server is an advantage.

• MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of any Medical course or BS Marketing;
- Must be able to relate well with all levels of the organization;
- Must be computer literate and can work with minimum supervision.

• REGISTERED NURSE

- Between 22-27 years of age;
- With at least one year related experience preferably gained in a hospital or HMO setting;
- Must be willing to work graveyard shift;
- Qualified candidate will be assigned in Libis, Quezon City.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN THE PHILIPPINES
is in need of qualified individuals for the positions of

GENDER ADVISOR

Under the overall guidance of UNIFEM and the UN Country Team in the Philippines, s/he shall be responsible for ensuring gender mainstreaming throughout UN programmes in the Philippines. Tasks and duties include:

- Coordinate preparation of a UN Assessment of Gender Concerns
- Assist UN agencies to prepare a UN Strategy paper on gender
- Facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a Monitoring and Evaluation system on gender.
- Facilitate and guide the adoption and implementation of a Policy Strategy on Gender by the UNDP Country Office.

DURATION: 12 months (renewable for another year)

REQUIREMENTS: Master's or PhD degree in a development-related field; at least eight years of substantive experience in development programming and policy; strong background and demonstrated experience in working from a gender perspective; good understanding of UN policies and programming thrusts and advantage; good grasp of human rights concepts and frameworks; good understanding of monitoring and evaluation systems; good communications and facilitation skills.

PROJECT ASSISTANT

Reporting directly to the Gender Advisor, the successful applicant shall regularly perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1) Contracting of local and international consultants/ experts, procurement of project equipment, organization of meetings, seminars and workshops
2) Documentation and research
3) Financial monitoring, recording and reporting
4) Other auxiliary functions required in pursuit of the organization's thrusts and objectives.

DURATION: 12 months (renewable for another year)

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics or other related field; at least five-year professional experience in project development and management, or in related administrative support services; experience in working from a gender perspective; very good writing skills in preparing reports and communications; proficiency in use of various software applications (MS word, MS PowerPoint, Excel, etc)

Initial appointment of 6 months subject to extension depending on satisfactory performance and medical clearance. Salary is tax-free.

Applications with complete resume must be received not later than 20 November 2001 at the PERSONNEL UNIT, UNDP, P.O.Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City, or email address charito.dela.cruz@undp.org, or fax 816-4061, 893-9598. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

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www.jobmarketonline.com

FEP PRINTING CORPORATION

needs

PLANT MECHANIC (code: PM)

- Mechanical Engineering graduate
- 1-2 years experience

PREPRESS PRODUCTION SPECIALISTS (code: PPS)

- College graduate with background in computers and/or fine arts
- Familiar with Macintosh/PC Environments and Local Area Networks
- Familiar with graphics applications (PageMaker, CorelDraw, Freehand, Photoshop)
- Previous experience in a digital prepress environment is an advantage (PostScript Image setting, File Preflight)

BOOKKEEPER (code: BK)

- Accounting graduate
- At least 2 years bookkeeping experience
- Familiar with BIR regulations
- Computer literate
- Can work with minimum supervision

PRESS HELPER (code: PH)

- Graduate of any vocational/technical course
- With exposure to mechanical or electrical work
- Simple troubleshooting skills
- With basic preventive maintenance training
- Preferably with training in color resolution
- 1-2 years experience in the printing industry

ACCOUNTANT (code: ACCT)

- CPA preferably with MBA degree
- With at least 3 years supervisory experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Independent, hardworking and honest

MARKETING ASSISTANT (code: MA)

- Preferably Marketing graduate
- With knowledge in basic Accounting
- Preferably female
- Computer literate

Mail resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

HRD (Code:____)
FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo
Makati City
or email to: znavarro@fep.ph

WE OFFER:
- Dynamic team
- Good salary
- Opportunity to grow
- Philtoa, Nitas member

WE REQUIRE:
- **Flexibility in post**
- Honest personality
- Good sales skills
- Industry experience preferred

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Fax / submit personally your C.V. at: G/F Ramona Appt. Bldg., 1555 M. Adriatico St., 1000 Ermita, Manila. **Tel: 528-45-07 to 09 Fax: 528-45-03**

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

We are looking for ambitious and hard working engineers to become part of a revolutionary software technology firm with beginnings from the Silicon Valley. This technology firm is in the process of setting up a Software R&D office in the Philippines and is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Technical Project Manager** with a minimum of five years experience in software development and architecture
- **Senior Software Engineers** with a minimum of three years experience
- **Software Engineers** with a minimum of one year experience

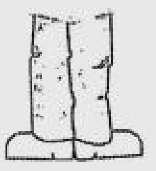
All with Computer Science degrees, expertise in Java and SQL required

Top wages to top candidates with all benefits allowed by law including profit sharing. Must be willing to travel to the US or Asia.

Please send in your resumés no later than **November 27, 2001** by email to: pgsabado@yahoo.com

Qualified candidates will be notified by email for interview time and dates to take place between ***Dec 4*** *and* ***5, 2001*** *in Manila.*

Where you find the best.



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PSRC | RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL

A prestigious and leading research agency affiliated with the largest customized research organization in the world invites aggressive and self-motivated individual to fill the following post:

A. SENIOR RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

- ➢ Has working experience in the selection and application of appropriate market research techniques, and must demonstrate a good understanding of their strategic and commercial implications
- ➢ Capable of dealing with corporate clients and is confident to analyze and present research results to senior management
- ➢ Natural team player, possess leadership and coordinating skills in implementing research projects (i.e., working with support groups from other units of the company)
- ➢ Has 3-4 years working experience doing or coordinating researchers - from another research agency, an ad agency, business or economic think-tanks; or from using market research at the client-user side
- ➢ Graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing
- ➢ Adept with data, excellent writing and communication skills

B. RESEARCH EXECUTIVE

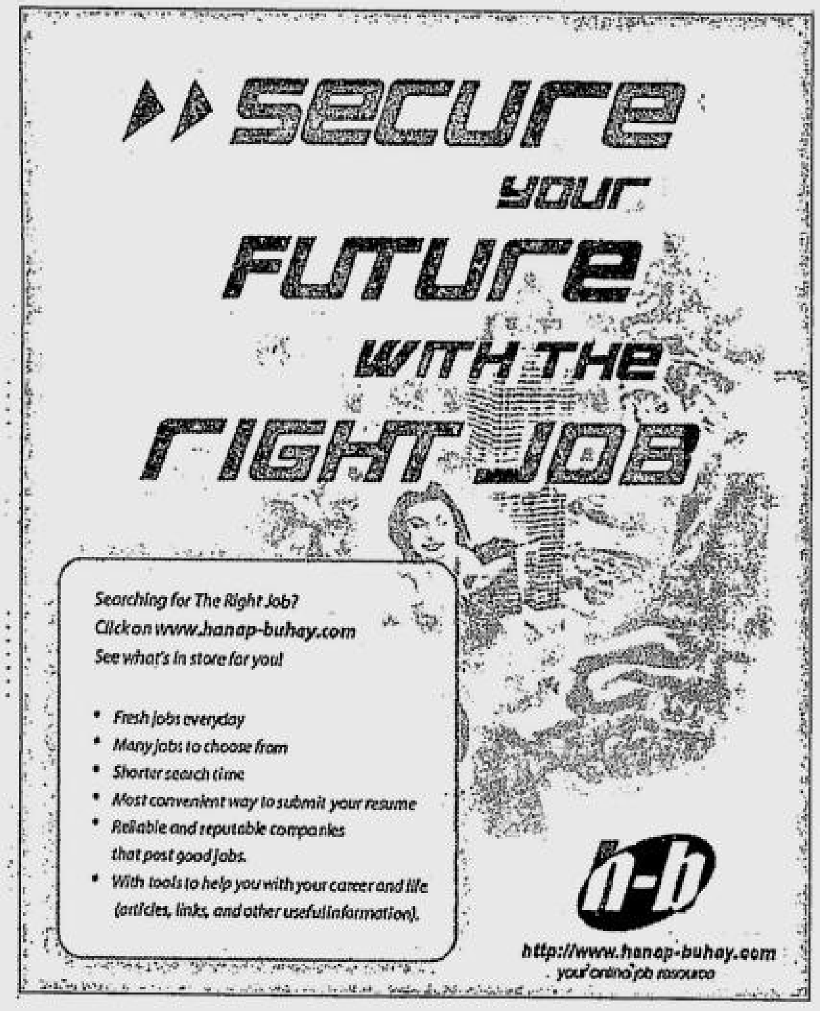
- ➢ At least one year working experience in any field
- ➢ Not more than 26 years old, graduate of Behavioral Science, Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing
- ➢ Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing, and analysis)
- ➢ Adept with data, analytical, excellent writing and communication skills

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER, INC. - RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog corner Kanlaon Streets
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: research@psrc-ri.com.ph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- *With tools to help you with your career and life (articles, links, and other useful information).*

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your online job resource

WELL-KNOWN JEANS COMPANY
is in need of:

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

- graduate of Marketing or any related course
- between 25-35 years old
- can handle sales operation for the brand nationwide
- knowledgeable in retail account and inventory management, planning and forecasting
- preferably with experience in dealing with department stores nationwide
- has pleasing and dynamic personality
- of good moral character
- has excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills
- computer literate

DESIGNER/MERCHANDISER

- graduate of Clothing Technology or any design related course
- between 21 to 30 years old
- knowledge in the technical aspect of garment production and merchandising an advantage
- with experience is preferred but new graduates may apply
- has pleasing and dynamic personality
- of good moral character
- has excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills
- computer literate

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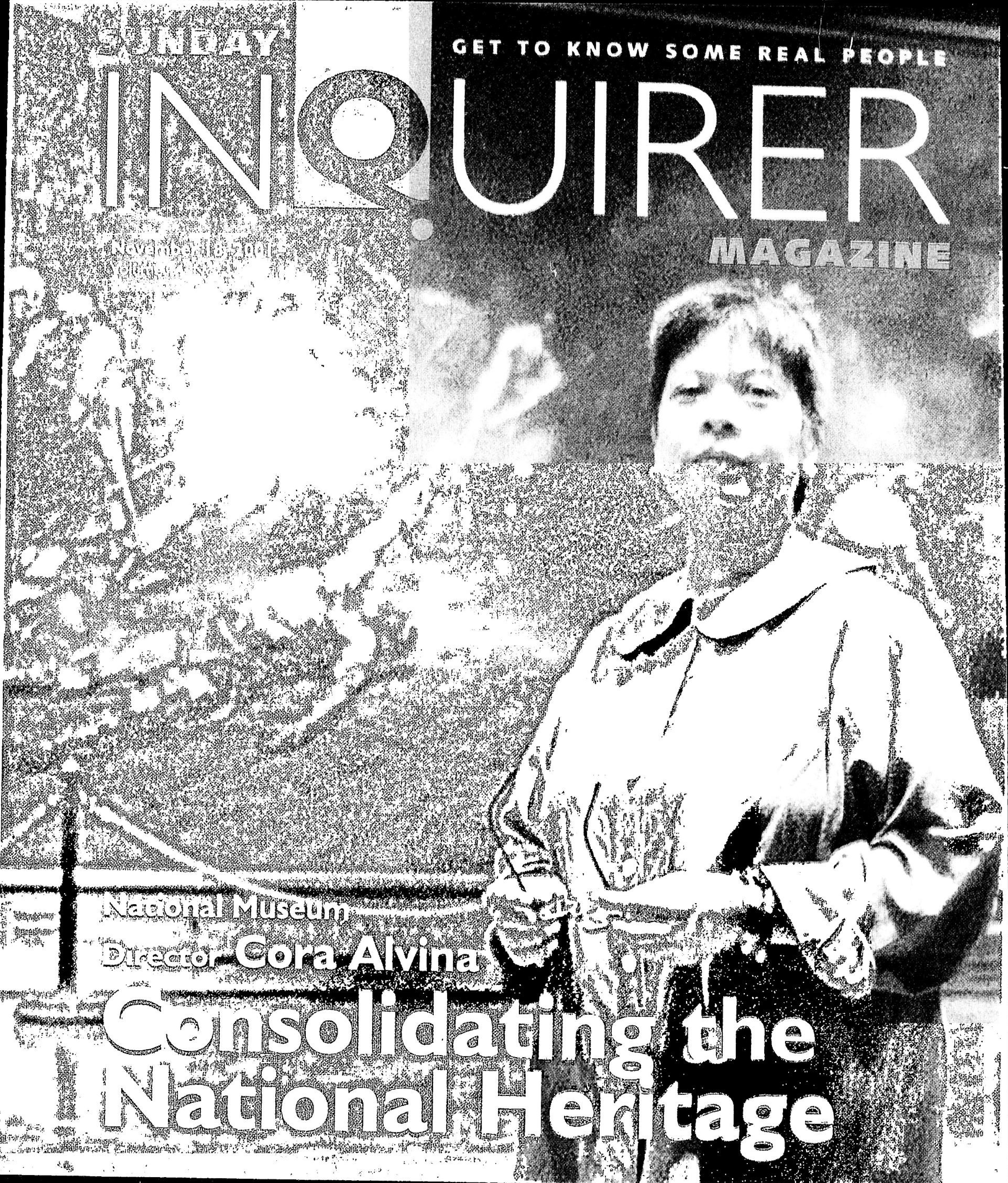

National Museum
Director Cora Alvina

Consolidating the National Heritage

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The Cover Image Cora Alvina, brand new director of the National Museum of the Philippines, is the new guardian of such treasure s as Juan Luna's "Spoliarium, " in the background. *Photograph by Romy Homillada*

NOSTALGIA PIECE

I felt nostalgic at reading your wonderful piece, "All the News, All This Time" by Victor Montero (**SIM**, 14 October 2001) about the career of Dean Armando Malay.

In particular, Malay mentioned how in the old days, journalists made sure they were not identified with politicians or people in government. It got me wondering what he feels about what we read about lately: newspaper and broadcasting personalities working on the side as government officials. Have times changed, such that this is now considered normal? If journalists insist on working for the government, is it not their duty to at least leave journalism because people expect them to be independent in their views and writings?

I hope you will explore this topic in some future story. Meantime, keep up the good work. I hope you can increase the number of your pages. The magazine is something welcome for the weekend.

ROBERTO ZUNIEGA
9 Apo, Quezon City

AN INSPIRATION

I came upon the article "Voluteer *Kuya*" by Cathy Babao-Guballa (**SIM**, 7 October, 2001) on Tim Farrell, an Australian and former investment banker who came here to help the street children of Manila.

In this day and age, we rarely see people like Farrell who give up secure jobs to help others. In most cases, people would probably think of themselves first before reaching out to the less fortunate. Others would want to help but can't, because of financial difficulty or lack of knowledge on how they might help the downtrodden. I belong to the latter. I'm one of those people who want to help but don't really know how.

Back in college, I belonged to an organization composed primarily of Political Science students with high, lofty ambitions of defending the oppressed, serving the poor and espousing advancement through education. We hardly achieved any of those goals, because my peers were more interested in winning the university elections than in alleviating the plight of the poor.

It must have taken Mr. Farrell a tremendous amount of courage and selflessness to leave the security of his home country and job. I commend him, for whatever it's worth, for all the sacrifices he made and for all the doubts he must have hurdled to fulfill this grand dream, which for me is still that, a dream. To Mr. Tim Farrell and the faceless, nameless others who serve people without expecting compensation, thank you for reaffirming our faith in human generosity. In these troubled times, when self-love is the ultimate rule, you serve as an inspiration to all of us. May the leaders of this country follow your example, so we may have hope of rising again as one nation with honor and pride.

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All in the Game

by Dennis U. Eroa

La Salle shot down Ateneo to emerge as this year's UAAP men's basketball champions in one of the most anticipated finals in recent history. This is the story of how Archers young and old rallied behind the team.

Green Destiny

Ernie U. Sarmiento

Hard-earned victory: BJ Manalo shares the winning moment with coach Pumaren

MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. LA SALLE HOTSHOT BJ MANALO ISN'T A CRY BABY.

Sure he cried unabashedly while hugging coach Franz Pumaren in front of more than 16,000 roaring fans as the final buzzer sounded in the recent epic Ateneo-La Salle UAAP men's basketball championship series at the historic Big Dome.

But that's understandable. This was the moment the towering six-footer had been waiting for. For all of his achievements, Manalo, whose hoop career has been stymied by injuries, still thirsted for that one crucial victory over the very same school where he once reigned as a high school basketball star.

Says Manalo, whose transfer to La Salle from Ateneo three years ago created quite a stir: "I have no hatred in my heart. But I'll be lying if I don't admit that I longed for this moment. The championship was a gift from God."

To prove his point, the 20-year-old point guard readily hugged former Ateneo teammate Enrico Villanueva, whose lackluster Game Three showings contributed to the Eagles' downfall. BJ knew that it was a trying moment for the 6-foot-5 slotman, whose search for a first-ever UAAP title, fell short again.

The shift from blue to green was a surprising and difficult choice for this son of a businessman and a full time homemaker. "I just felt that my basketball talents would fit more into the La Salle system. I love the sport so much and I want to maximize my capabilities," reveals this third year marketing major. "I don't see myself working in an office in the near future."

While he'll forever treasure his memories of Ateneo's cool and breezy Katipunan campus, Manalo says his transfer to pollution-hit La Salle Taft was a brilliant decision. La Salle's basketball program has been so good that it won three straight titles under the tutelage of Pumaren, a former national cager.

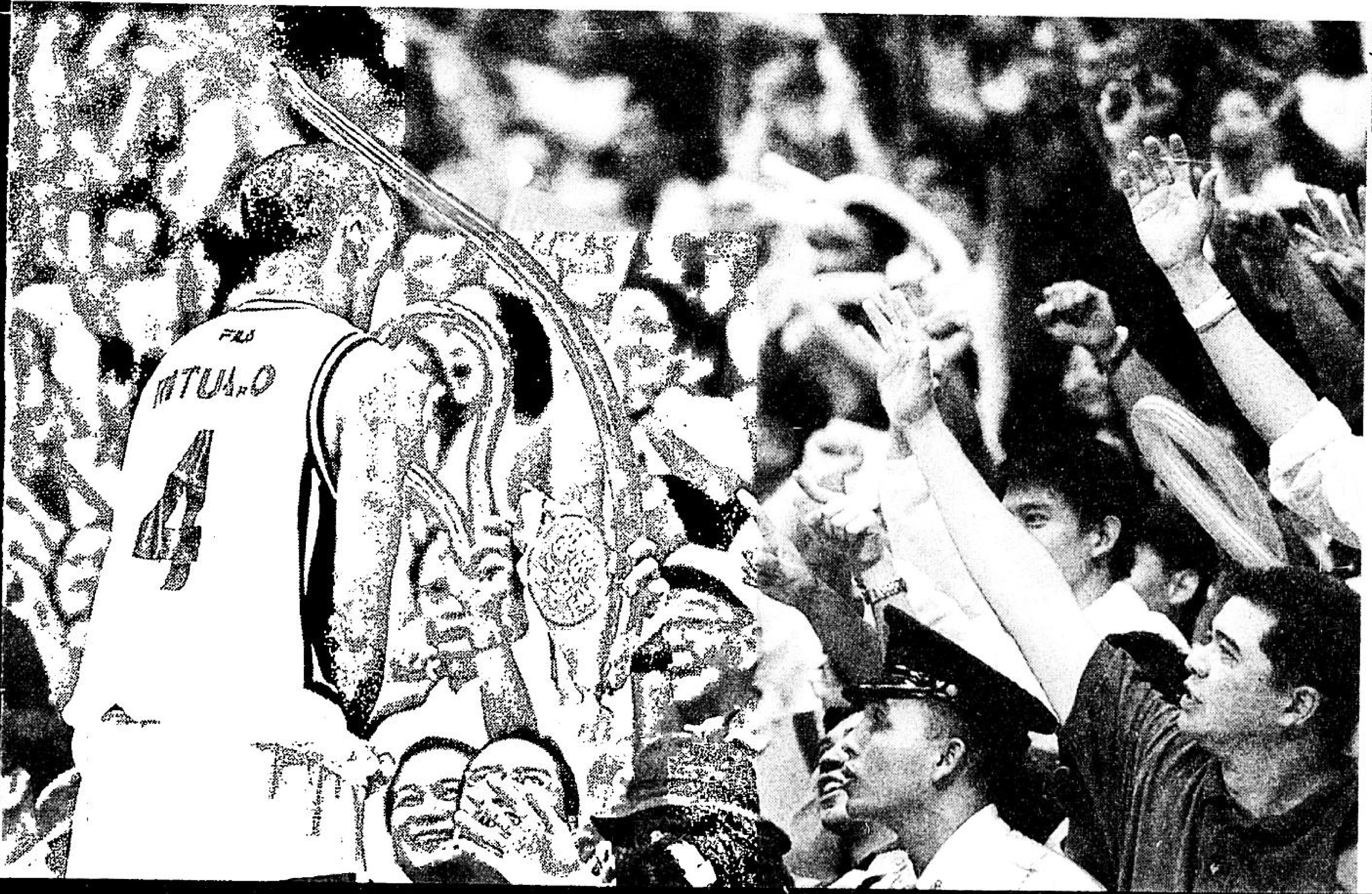
Manalo's rise mirrors the Green Archers' trouble-plagued campaign this year. First there was the case of rookie sensation Mark Cardona, whose academics credentials were scrutinized by the all-powerful school board in a move that some compared to a witchhunt. But Cardona later silenced his critics with his unorthodox shots and pesky defense en route to pocketing the rookie of the year honors.

On top of that, La Salle was battered by off-court worries and badly hit by a rash of injuries that included a scary bout with flu. Worse, Manalo was being bothered by a right foot injury that required him to wear a leg device especially bought in the US.

Through it all, BJ kept a stiff upper lip and felt his pain lift as soon as he stepped on court. "I never lost my faith," says Manalo, who plays beautiful music with a winsome La Salle lady varsity footballer.

But BJ himself acknowledges that La Salle's victory wasn't due to him alone. Manalo and pro-bound Ren Ren Ritualo were considered the team leaders, keeping the Archers intact even during the most trying moments.

Hail to the champ: Ren Ren Ritualo faces a cheering crowd



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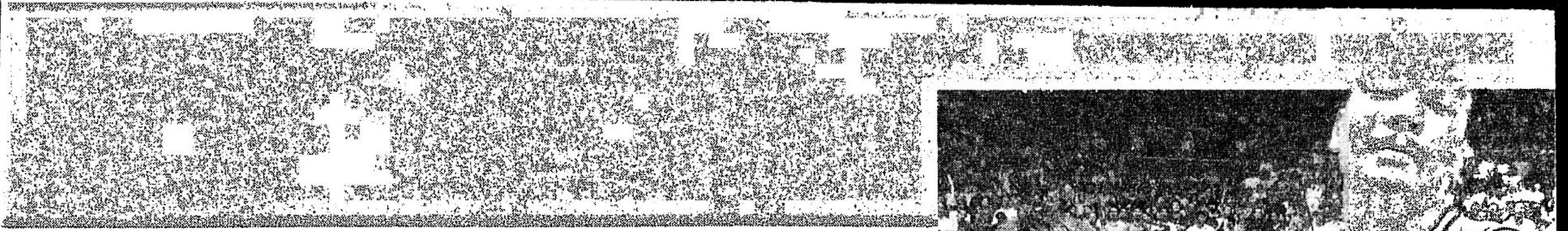


"Ren Ren's the most senior among us. He inspires us with his work habits and fighting heart," notes BJ. Ritualo played a crucial role in La Salle's four straight championships, he adds.

Then there's Mike Cortez, the team's silent operator. Aside from winning the sportsmanship award from the press corps, the sleek-playing Cortez also emerged as Ritualo's co-winner of the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in the finals. Like sixth man awardee Willy Wilson, Carlo Sharma, Miguel Gozum and Adonis Sta. Maria, Cortez can sometimes be naughty when away from the playing court.

Center Manny Ramos, who missed the memorable all-or-nothing match due to dengue, is similarly a silent but effective worker. Though his performance was uninspired at times, that didn't prevent him from lifting the Green Archers during the big games.

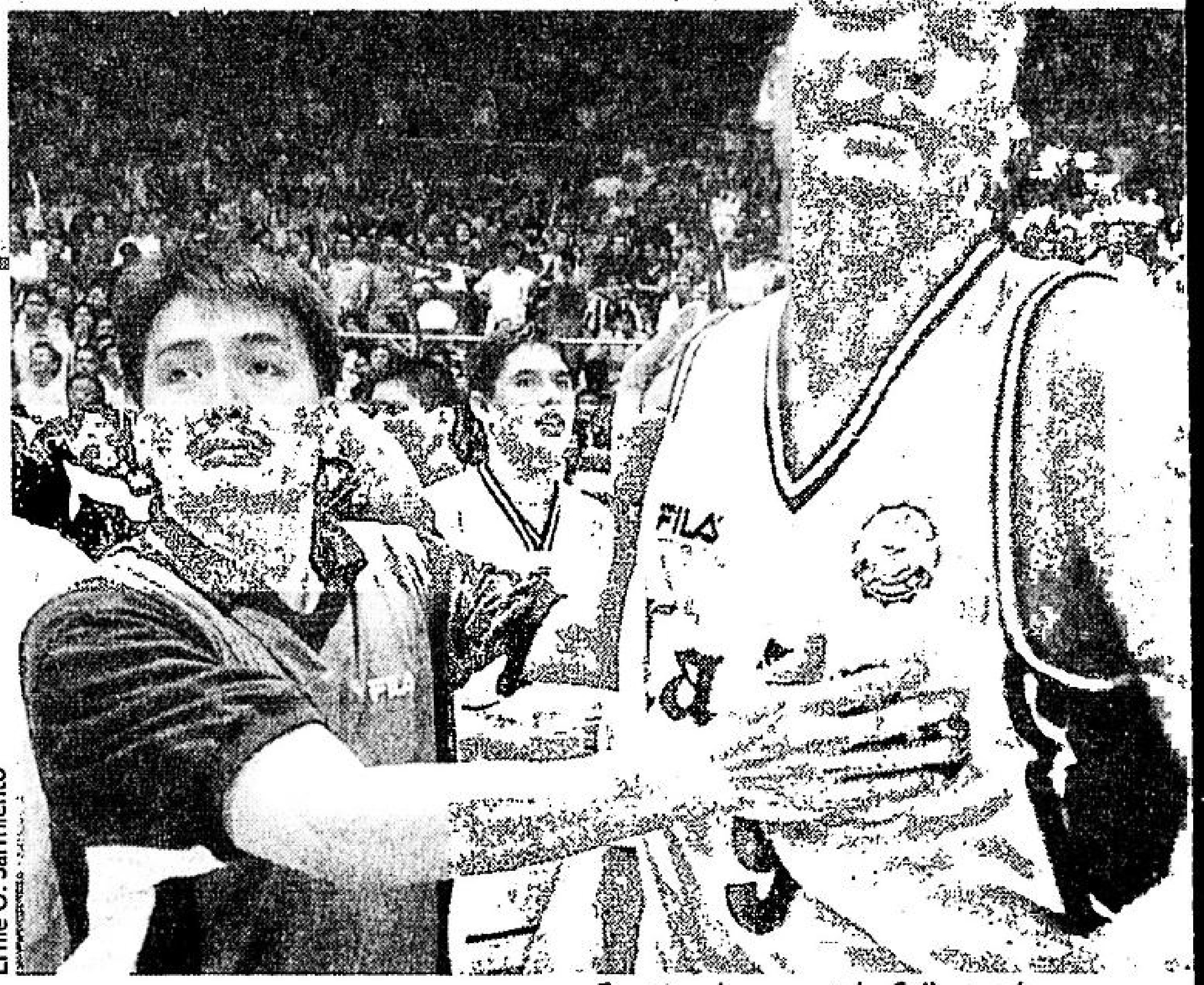
For all of La Salle's advantages, one thing stands: the team is superb because the players themselves are friends on and off the court. No one, not even the prolific Ritualo, has ever demanded special treatment from the coaching staff.

"Our bonding doesn't end after playing," says 22-year-old Ritualo. "On and off the court, we're friends who share secrets. We lose and win as a team." The Green Archers play billiards together and while away their free time malling or simply catching up with their studies. Ritualo and Manalo act as mentors to younger team members Cholo Villanueva, Joseph Yeo, Michael Gavino, Christian Cabatu, Oscar Bunyi Jr. and Michael Vainio.

Resiliency is another plus point in the team. Substitute playmaker Frederick Arejola typifies this trait. The guy persevered for three years in La Salle's team B before making the grade and becoming part of this year's champion squad.

Then, there are the so-called "Fat Boys," a group of fun-loving alumni whose large frames are matched only by their generosity. Effective managers Terry Capistrano and deputy Manny Salgado are likewise indispensable assets to the team. Capistrano, also known as Mr. Cool for his demeanor, and the hardworking Salgado have been known to pop in at a moment's notice to help an Archer in anguish. The dapper but low-key Capistrano thrives as well in hurdling challenges and likes to work behind the scene.

"All of the players delivered when it counted most," says this highly-respected name in the shipping industry. "La Salle has a great understanding of the task at hand and what must be done to achieve its goals. The Green Archers have tried and succeeded in making something of themselves and will move on to become useful members of the community," Capistrano adds.



Ernie U. Sarmiento

Emotional moment: La Salle coach Franz Pumaren gives Archer Carlo Sharma a steadying hand as the team emerges as UAAP basketball champs

Heated finals: A play between La Salle and Ateneo

Ernie U Sarmiento

Noting how La Salle's natural grace under fire carried the Archers to victory, Capistrano also makes special mention of Ritualo, who is graduating with a double degree, and Manalo. "Ren Ren is an example of how athletes should treat education, and BJ was simply determined to play with or without his injury."

Asked what he felt toward Ateneo, Capistrano speaks like a true gentleman. "Any team that can get into the finals had to be a tough team. The Eagles were very good adversaries who brought out the best in our players. I admire the Atenean spirit and the Eagles deserve all the credit due them."

Not to be overlooked is Bro. Rollie Dizon, La Salle president, who guided the Archers to victory with his prayers and wisdom. And of course, there's Pumaren. "Franz is my best recruit after BJ," quips former team manager Johnny Valdes, who had two championships tucked under his belt. Valdes describes Pumaren as very strict, and having the bearing of a Physics teacher. " I salute Franz as much as I salute Terry and Manny. While the rookie team is formidable, this year's campaign was very complicated," he adds.

Ritualo describes Pumaren as one who won't stop until he gets the right result. "He doesn't differentiate between a starter and a benchwarmer. He treats us fairly and will not hesitate to impose discipline if you break the rules or are getting lazy in practice," he observes.

The lively battles that La Salle had waged echo Pumaren's will to win. Like a gym rat, Pumaren, a former San Miguel Beer point guard, is a driven man even in practice. During actual games, he had no qualms fielding his younger players during crunch time, a testament to his confidence.

Pumaren's tongue can also be sharp, but like the rest of the team, he knows that humility in victory is a virtue. Tempers rose to volcanic levels as the word war between Pumaren and counterpart Joe Lipa heated up during the best-of-three championship series, but as the final buzzer sounded, Pumaren and the volatile Lipa shook hands like old friends.

It was definitely a good fight.

Noteworthy

Canadian Cool

Performances by Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal highlight "A Glimpse of Canada"

Sexy choreography characterizes the performances of this Canadian group

KNOWN FOR ITS "SEXY CHOREOGRAPHY, INDEFATIGABLE DANCERS AND PURPOSEFUL PROGRAMMING," THE WORLD-RENOWNED LES BALLETS JAZZ DE MONTREAL WILL PERFORM AT THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES (CCP) TANGHALANG NICANOR ABELARDO (MAIN THEATER) ON NOVEMBER 23, 8 P.M. AND NOVEMBER 24, 3 P.M.

"Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal's performance will be the highlight of a week-long celebration in Manila of a series of Canadian events titled 'A Glimpse of Canada,'" said Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette. "This celebration, and the performances of Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, highlight the growing cultural exchange and the bonds of friendship between Canada and the Philippines."

The 13-member company is under the artistic direction of internationally recognized dancer Louis Robitaille. Robitaille studied classical and jazz dance with an illustrious teaching corps drawn from the Grands Ballets Canadiens, the American School of Ballet (affiliated with the New York City Ballet) and the American Ballet Theater. On graduation, he joined the Eddy Toussaint Dance Company, later becoming the star dancer of the Ballets Eddy Toussaint, founded in 1974. His flawless technique, keen sensitivity, power and musicality rapidly won him invitations from choreographers and dance companies around the world.

Founded in the 1970s in Canada by dancer-choreographer Genevieve Salbaing, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal specializes in classical, contemporary and jazz dance.

The group's first full-scale production, presented on a cross-Quebec tour, became a rousing success, which led to the founding of the renowned ballet company. Since then, the troupe has won the admiration of nearly two million spectators in 58 countries.

The group consists of dancers Susan Gaudreau, Robert Rubinger, Vanessa Convery, Eric J. Miles, Cherice Barton, Edgar Zendejas, Eric Beauchesne, Youri de Wilde, Lourdes Gracia, Neelanthi Vadivel, Francine Liboiron and Yannick Matthon.

For more information, please call the CCP Performing Arts Department at 832-3657, 832-1125 loc. 1604 and Ticketworld and National Bookstore outlets at 891-5610 and 891-5743.

The performance by Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal is a collaborative project between the CCP and the Canadian Embassy with the support of Manulife Philippines, TELUS and KPMG Consulting (Canada). Their Asian tour is made possible with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Quebec.

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MEMBER PANA Truth in Advertising

Cover Story

by Alya B. Honasan

photographs by Romy Homillada

Cora Alvina, the new director of the National Museum of the Philippines, brings a welcome combination of spunk and scholarship to her post. She'll need both to weave through unfamiliar government procedures and make things happen for this premiere repository of the country's national heritage.

Hands-On Heritage

IT TOOK CORAZON S. ALVINA A MONTH TO MAKE UP HER MIND ABOUT TAKING OVER THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES. THE ERSTWHILE PRESIDENT OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF MANILA, ARGUABLY ONE OF THE BEST-RUN PRIVATE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY, HEMMED AND HAWED UNTIL COLLEAGUE AND ART CRITIC PATRICK FLORES SPELLED THINGS OUT FOR HER. "HE SAID, 'YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY CAN'T SAY NO. IT'S NOT AN OFFER FOR SOME GLAMOROUS JOB, BUT A CALL TO SERVICE.' VIEWED IN THAT LIGHT, I DECIDED I WOULD TRY IT OUT."

"Each division will move with a curatorial direction based on a particular and significant Philippine item, so you can go into the art, the ritual and the people"

It didn't help that her colleagues feared for her, and met the news with an almost unanimous but wary "Goooood luck!" "Well, I feared for myself," she laughs. "Their main worry was the funding I would end up with, and that my inability to put up programs because of lack of funds would signal a failure." Is she ready for the frustrations that she seems certain to face, considering the constant battle for pathetic funding for the arts in this country? "I'm a very persistent person, because I'm a spoiled brat," Alvina says. "But if I can't get something, I leave it. I can't get bogged down, that's counterproductive! I have too many things to do, so my attitude is, '*Hindi yan puede?* Okay, next!'"

Probably the most encouraging advice came from Paz Yuchengco, who assured Alvina that "anything exciting is scary at first." The general sentiment of foreboding was, however, accompanied by the certainty that Alvina was up to the job, being a pint-sized cultural workhorse who carries a big stick, what with capabilities ranging from publishing and anthropology to linguistics, art history and museology. At the time of this interview, she is on her third day at work. Towers of books and favorite artworks litter her office floor, among them a pair of Jerry Araos stools and a Roberto Feleo cat with its hind leg raised in mid-piss. "Do I have to look serious? But I'm not," she retorts to the photographer's request for some attitude. "I've just moved, so I have no sense of the place yet ," Alvina says. "I've done the rounds, met the people, but that takes a little bit of time. You don't just slide into something like this!"

Madame Director with a wood-shaving sculpture of herself by Roberto Feleo

The operational system, for one, will take some getting used to, especially since her predecessor, Fr. Gabriel Casal, had the job for 14 years. "I came from a private sector, and now this is government, and I understand there are . . . substantial differences in management latitude and possibilities." A nice way to refer to red tape and bureaucracy, which must come with the bigger territory. "There's the number of people to be supervised. At the Met, I had 17 people; here there are about 314. There are more areas, and the space can be a little intimidating." In her old workplace, Alvina could do the rounds of the place, a staple of her management style, in 45 minutes. "Here it took me the whole morning just to get the fourth floor done! I'm a hands-on person, I want to be physical."

She'll get her wish, as she will eventually need to do a lot of walking. Alvina must actually run two buildings: the former Senate building, where she holds office, and the nearby Museum of the Filipino People in Agrifina Circle. By 2003, the former Department of Tourism Building will also become the Museum of Natural History, and will make that walk a little longer.

Not that her new home is without its delights. The venerable National Museum turned 100 last October 29. The building was originally built in the 1930s and was reconstructed after war damage, and already Alvina is talking to the museum botanists about putting up an arboretum in the lovely (albeit unkempt) courtyard garden in the building's center. Aside from the most famous treasures, the Manunggul Jar, the Butuan boats, and Juan Luna's magnificent "Spoliarium," "we have botanical specimens dating back to the 1800s gathered by priests, birds that are already extinct, beautiful textiles, ethnographic and archaeological material – people should really see them," Alvina says.

Alvina's vision right now is all about consolidation. Last January, before she was offered the directorship, she was supposed to curate a project for the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA, where she is chairperson of the Commission on Museums) that would bring together all the important government art collections under one roof by 2002. This National Gallery of Art, to be housed at the National Museum building, will include art from the collections of the Central Bank, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Intramuros Administration, as well as the "Spoliarium" and other National Museum jewels. After accepting the job offer – simultaneously fielded by Malacañang, the Presidential Management Staff, and the National Museum Board of Trustees chaired by Tony Boy Cojuangco – she must now hand that curatorship to someone else.

In her own new backyard, Alvina has sworn to "try my darnedest" to mount multi-disciplinary exhibitions "that will involve more than one division of the museum." Thus, she's zeroing in on universal themes. The first one she's toying with: rice. "So you'll have paintings of rice planting by Amorsolo and Fabian de la Rosa and photographs of the Rice Terraces," she enthuses. "Then you can pull in the botany division, the geology, talk about those worms killing the terraces. And then there's the ethnography – the *bulol*, the rice baskets. Each division will move with a curatorial direction based on a particular and significant Philippine item, so you can go into the art, the ritual and the people, all put together in one grand exhibit."

The Museum's broad base of expertise is one which Alvina is determined to tap. "There are a lot of scientists here, and one big difference between this and my old job is that I'm not limited to fine arts." Then there are plans to hound her friends in media and write occasional articles, to bring out the significant amount of museum properties in storage, to come up with publications and education programs, to link up with branches of the National Museum in the provinces by exchanging exhibitions, and many more.

Which unfortunately brings us to Alvina's most omnipresent reality check nowadays. "Of course, all these will depend on whether we have funds other than what is allocated for general operations," she notes. ""I have to go to the Senate to defend my budget – I understand our budget keeps getting cut, and that's scary because of certain inevitable operational expenses. At the Met, if we had arrears of P25,000, you could call the trustees and they would divide it among them-

In her office in progress: A vision of consolidation

Artwatch

by Gabriela Alejandra D. Lee

As her grandmother, artist Araceli Limcaco-Dans, prepares for her latest exhibit, a granddaughter recalls what it was like to grow up surrounded by beautiful pictures

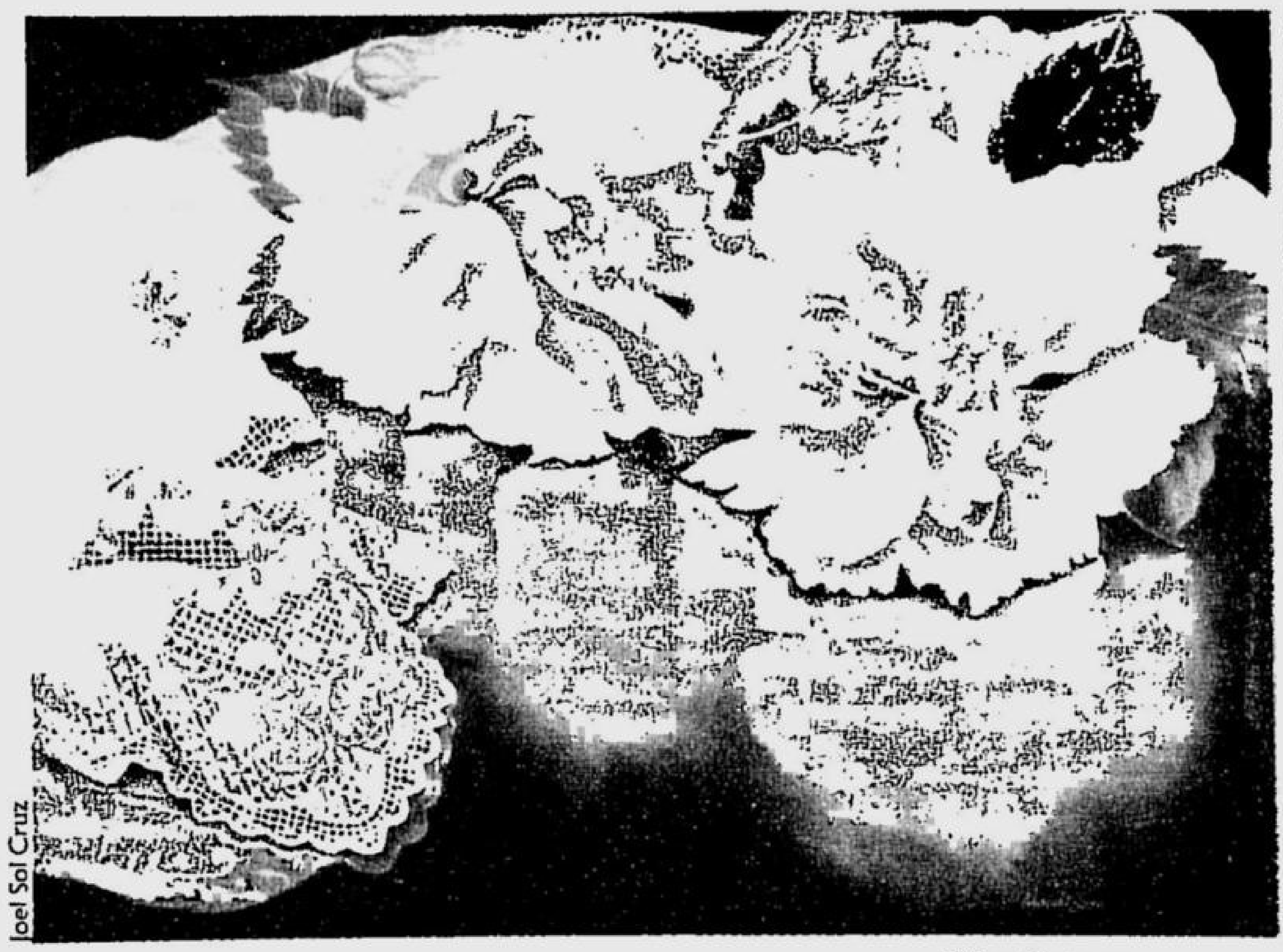
My *Lola's* World

AS A CHILD, I MUST HAVE SEEN HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS OF PAINTINGS. MY GRANDMOTHER, ARACELI LIMCACO-DANS, HAD ALL THOSE ART BOOKS LINING THE SHELVES OF MY *LOLO*'S BIG LIBRARY. WHENEVER WE WOULD VISIT THEM EVERY SUNDAY—A TRADITION THAT IS ONGOING UNTIL NOW—I REMEMBER APPROACHING THOSE SHELVES AND PULLING OUT THOSE GIGANTIC HARDBOUND VOLUMES (USUALLY, THEY WERE BIGGER THAN MYSELF) AND TOTTERING TOWARDS THE STUDY TABLE. THERE I WOULD CRACK OPEN THOSE GREAT TOMES AND FEAST MY EYES ON THE RIOTS OF COLORS AND LINES AND PICTURES THAT MAGICALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME. I WAS A TYPICAL CHILD—I LOVED PICTURE BOOKS BEFORE GETTING HOOKED ON REAL BOOKS.

Lola Moms (as we all call her) was a painter herself as far back as I could remember. She always had these huge canvases around their house, and lots and lots of flowers — either cultivated from her own garden or gifts from friends and admirers — arranged around her. Draped around these plants were white sheets with tiny little holes; I used to wonder why *Lola* was always using the family tablecloths for her paintings. (It was only when I had reached high school that I learned that these "tablecloths" were actually called *calado,* and that they weren't tablecloths after all.) *Lola* was always changing the subject of what she painted: sometimes, they were seashells, sometimes old rags, and sometimes those old pieces of driftwood that were stacked at the back of the house. But one thing was constant — the *calado* hung in the background (or foreground) of the painting.

I suppose that, when I was younger, I took for granted the fact that *Lola* was a painter. I was always wondering why people were always marveling at her paintings—they were only flowers and lace, after all! We kids could have given them the real thing, straight from the garden, why did they want to settle for what *Lola* painted? Children, I guess, have a way of looking at the world in such a simple manner that it escaped my attention that my grandmother was doing something beautiful—that she was painting the world with her flowers and seashells and lace.

To page 11



Joel Sol Cruz

"May Ginto sa Hardin II," *watercolor, 2001*

"My grandmother was painting the world with her flowers and seashells and lace"

Joel Sol Cruz

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Bracing for the End Times

It seems that the Last Battle before the Last Judgment will happen sooner than we expect. We Catholics believe that this battle will be led and won by a woman. And the woman's name is Mary

TODAY (NOVEMBER 18) IS THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING. THE GOSPEL (LK. 21:5-19) IS ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IN JUDGMENT.

The center of the prophecy is the Temple of Jerusalem, a magnificent structure, restored by Herod the Great, and in Jesus' time, "a temple gleaming like a jewel at the heart of the city." About this Temple, Jesus said: "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." (Lk. 21:6) He was foretelling the total destruction and plunder of both Temple and City under Titus in 70 AD.

Today, the Temple of Jerusalem is still the center of Jewish faith and politics. Since the Jews are still waiting for the Messiah (Christ) and since a Jewish prophecy states that "the one who rebuilds the Temple is the Christ," the so-called "anti-Christ" must be in the process now of being groomed to become the "Coming Messiah." Since the Ark of the Covenant (which had been considered lost since the time of Solomon) has already been found, the Israelites had reproduced all the sacred vessels needed for the Temple worship. A seminary has been training the priests for the Temple services once it is rebuilt.

Politically, Jerusalem had been conquered by the Israelites and proclaimed as their capital. But the Temple Mount where the original Temple used to stand still remains the greatest point of contention today between Israelites and Palestinians. Once this problem is solved, the next move is the rebuilding of the Temple. And according to Jewish prophecy, that is the role of the "Coming Christ."

The Christians (who believe that the Messiah has already come in the person of Jesus Christ) are, of course, aware of the imminent confrontation between the "true Christ" and the "anti-Christ." There will be a great "falling away" among the true followers of Christ. There will be commotion, division and separation among those who dream of harmony and peace. Christians and their leaders will have much to suffer in the hands of the Anti-Christ. Many will die for the faith. Jesus once asked: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" (Lk. 18:8)

It seems that the Last Battle before the Last Judgment will happen sooner than we expect. We Catholics believe that this battle will be led and won by a woman. And the woman's name is Mary. We are all invited to prepare ourselves spiritually for this final struggle and victory.

Here at the Center for Migrant Youth, "end times" means any time; it's here-and-now whenever and wherever we encounter the Spirit of Jesus in silence within or in community with others, especially with those who are poor, powerless, lonely and in pain.

Come celebrate Christmas with us on December 16 (Sunday) at 5:30 in the afternoon, or help me host a birthday lunch for the poor in our neighborhood on December 23, after the 9 a.m. Mass. Bring simple gifts from the heart for the poor like rice, sugar, milk, coffee, noodles, canned foods, toiletries; usable clothes, shoes, toys and candies for children before December 16 and not later than December 23. It's the most sensible way of bracing for the end times.

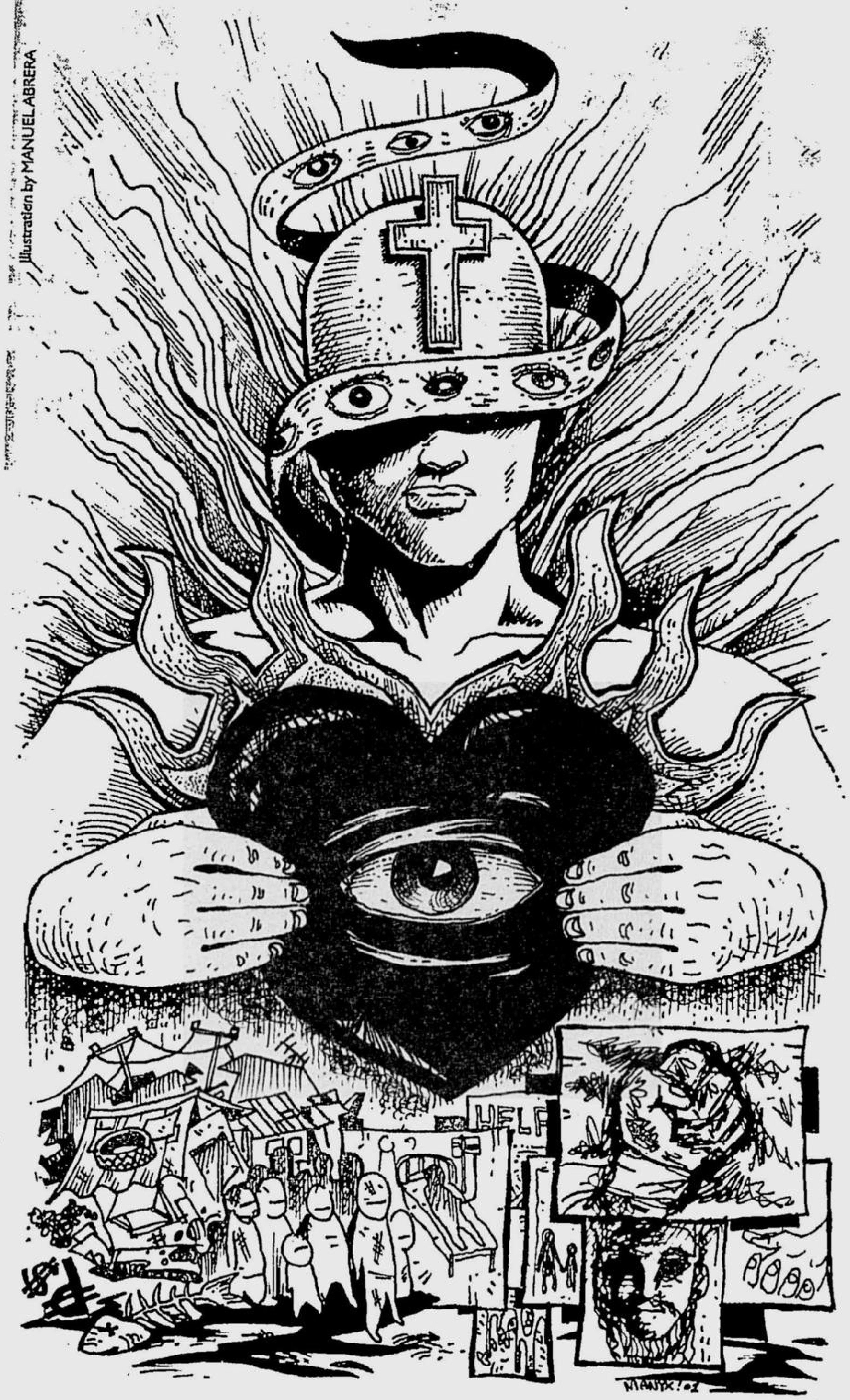


Illustration by MANUEL ABRERA

End Page

by John L. Silva

Glenn Ford

Didn't I remember the advent in the late '60s of the brown-skinned songstress Nora Aunor as the historical marker when the masses of people realized brown was beautiful?

IT ALL STARTED WITH MY HOUSE BOY GLENN, A FAITHFUL YOUNG MAN WHO WE'RE PUTTING THROUGH COLLEGE SO HE WON'T BE A HOUSE BOY FOREVER. HE SHOPS FOR THE NECESSARY PROVISIONS IN THE HOUSE, AND ONE DAY I LOOKED OVER AN ITEM HE BOUGHT. IT WAS A BAR OF SOAP THAT PROMISED A WHITENED FACE.

Glenn comes from a remote village in Zamboanga, a bumpy 45-minute tricycle ride from Dapitan, the once exiled home of our National Hero, Jose Rizal. Glenn came to our lives five years ago, young and eager and wanting to be a teacher. I asked him why he had such an American name like Glenn. He was called that after his father's movie idol, Glenn Ford. I was stupefied, and he proudly added that his other brother was named Redford, after that other American actor Robert Redford. When I was interviewing him, I took little notice that he was a dark young man. After all, I thought, sunburnt skin was his lot, and his lineage and geographical location were devoid of sexually marauding friars or horny foreigners. With my American education, I took Glenn into our household with no discriminatory attitude towards his color.

So, here I was, the liberal employer holding on to a bar of whitening soap, unsure of how to ask Glenn why he bought it. A trip to the supermarket revealed that this soap, as well as a dozen other soaps, creams, and face granules, were on the shelf and doing brisk sales.

I was stumped. Didn't I remember the advent in the late '60s of the brown-skinned songstress Nora Aunor as the historical marker when the masses of people realized brown was beautiful? I remembered that period because the house servants, Noranians all, junked their whitening lotion Eskinol and strutted about the house quite proudly with their golden tans. That cultural revolution rose up the ranks all the way to my La Salle schoolgrounds. Overnight, the fair Iberians and the lusted-after Caucasian students were declassé. The earthy-looking *kayumanggi* boys with the indigenous surnames were the hot ticket items to hang out with.

I called Glenn, and in a democratic gesture (*sit here Glenn, at the dining table*), inquired, very neutrally, why he purchased the soap whitener. It was impulse buying, he alleged, a fad product among his classmates. I thought the response disingenuous. I dropped the pretense of equality. "You bought it because you wanted to look white, didn't you? You're ashamed of your color," I taunted. "You hate being Filipino, isn't it the truth? When I came back from Boracay looking darker than Nora and you, was I ashamed?" The inquisition began.

Glenn was nonplussed. He declared pride in being a Filipino. He didn't buy the soap to be anyone else. He held his temper and kept a steady and firm demeanor as I searched in his eyes and in his facial lines a hint betraying his assertion.

"It's all that imperialist propaganda, huh, Glenn? Those depiction of Filipinos as African cannibals. You succumbed to that, and developed a bad case of self-loathing. Admit it."

One thing admirable about Glenn is that he's always spoken the truth. I would never be able to cajole him that black was white or vice versa.

"No," he replied. "It's not any of the racist photographs and drawings you have in your collection. It's advertising. Yes, advertising tells us that if we wash with this soap, we'd look cleaner, whiter, and handsomer."

Ah-ha, I've found the culprit. Yes, I thought of the billboards on Edsa and South Superhighway and C-5. Yeah, the "Filipinos" on those billboards look *mestizo* verging on white. Glenn had a point. The only way he'd ever be up on those billboards was if he washed with that soap.

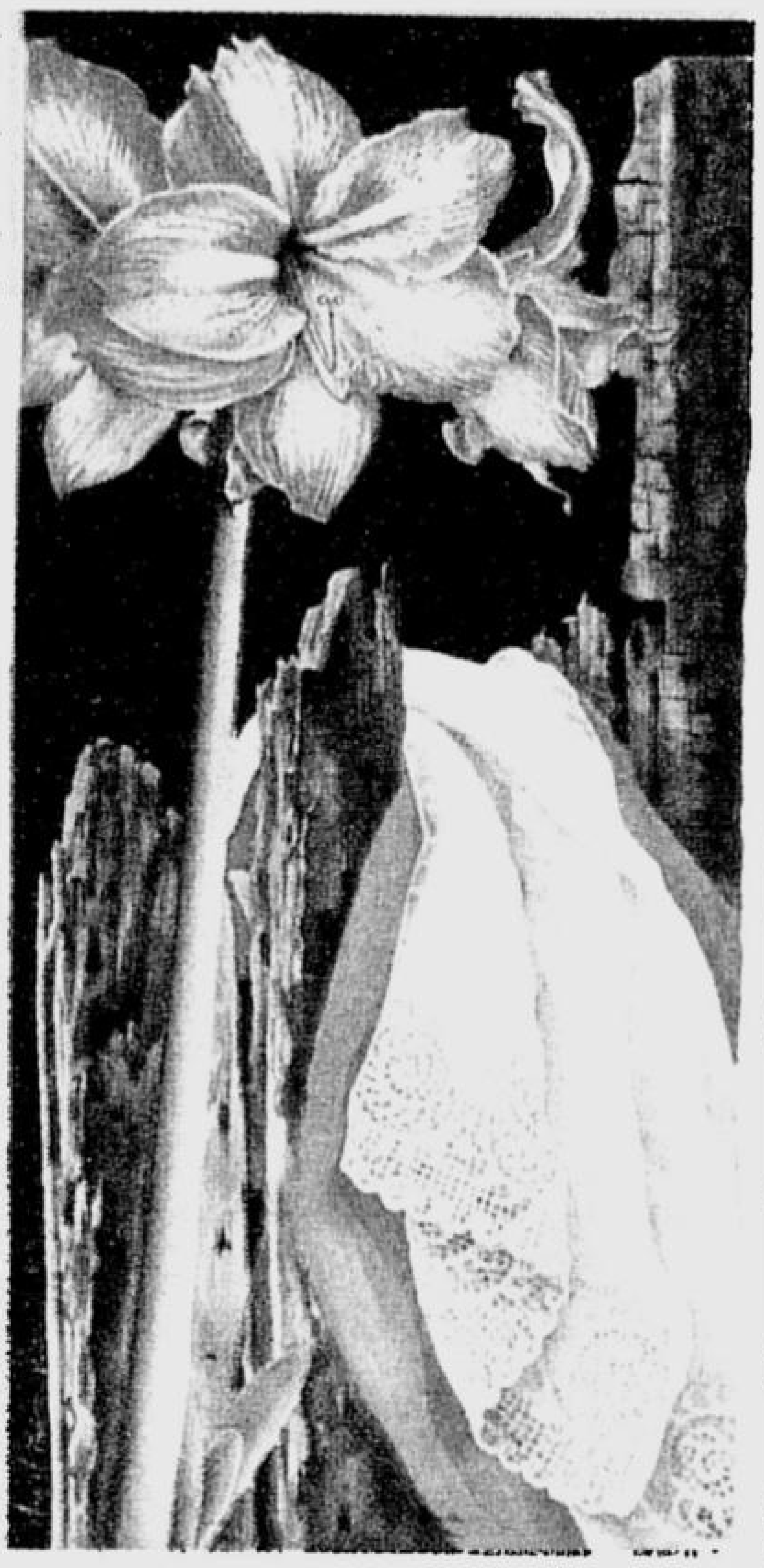
I gave Glenn his bar and told him not to believe everything the ads say. But I didn't want him to believe I lost the round. "So," I said, "Glenn, let's think about changing your name. It smacks of cultural imperialism, don't you think?" He gave me a quizzical look and excused himself to go to school.

For feedback, email jsilva79@hotmail.com

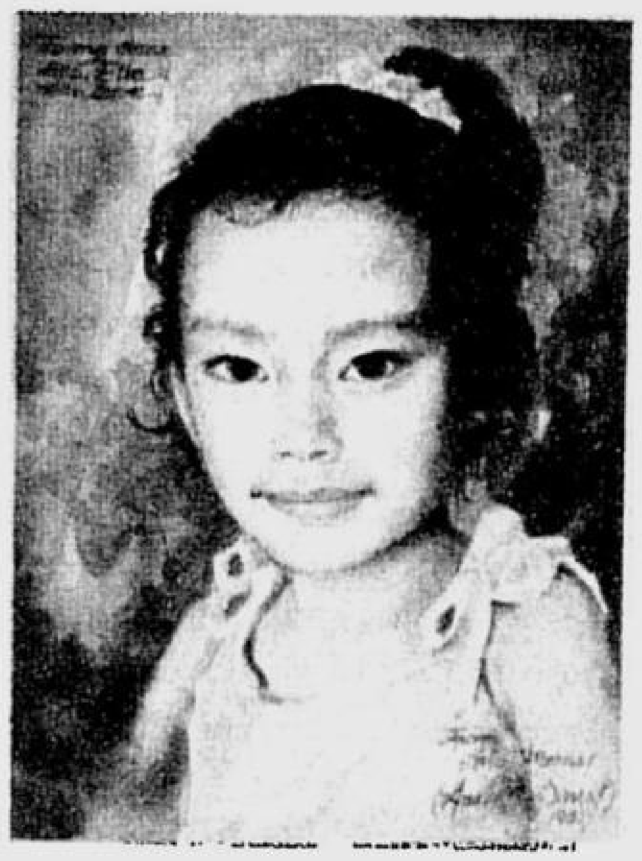
Best wishes,
Linda Estrella
PURICO

Movie star Linda Estrella advertising Purico vegetable shortening. Trade card with autograph, circa 1950s.
John L. Silva collection

ARTWATCH...from page 8



"May Bituin sa Bakod," *watercolor, 2001*



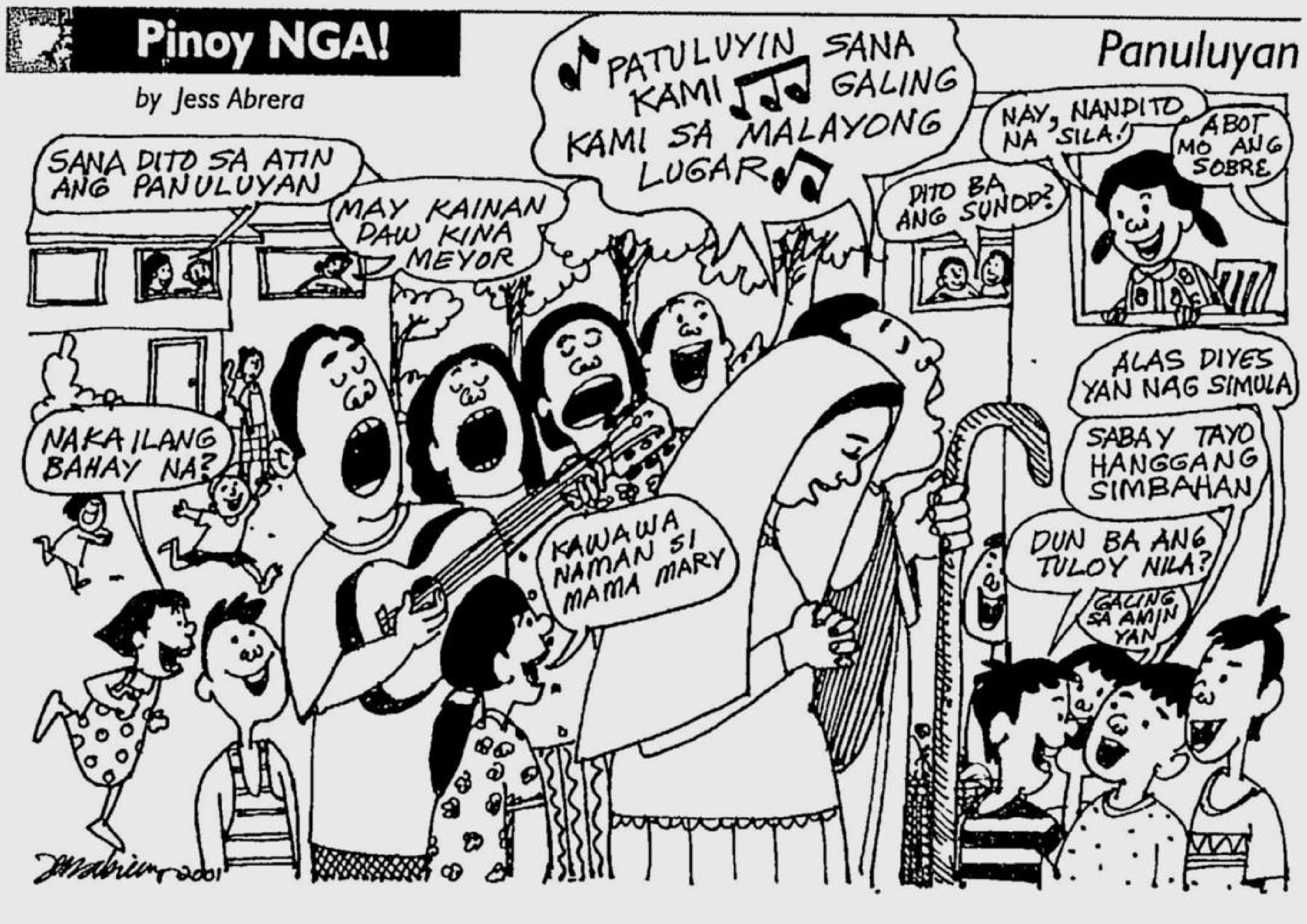
The author at 4, as painted by her Lola *Moms*

Now that I am older (and hopefully, a bit wiser than before), I have come to realize that *Lola's* works are not just about flowers and pieces of wood; it's about looking at ordinary things in another way, making them luminescent in an otherwise drab environment.

And now, it is with these paintings that *Lola* will help other children see the world as a beautiful place, as the place that she represents in her paintings. *Lola* will be having an exhibit of her laltest *calado* paintings (Series IX), "*Pamana ni Inay,*" that will benefit the students of Bridges Foundation Inc., a school for children with special needs. This will open on December 6 at the Metropolitan Art Gallery, 4th Level Building A, SM Megamall. The exhibit proper will run from December 6 to 20.

Lola has a wonderful way of looking at simple objects and making them shine in their very simplicity. It's almost as if she paints with the skills of a master, but with the eyes of a child.

The author, aged 17 and nicknamed "Gabby," is a freshman at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao, taking up Creative Writing. She wrote this piece as a favor to her Lola Moms. *She still reads the art books in her* Lola's *library, and the books are still bigger than her.*


Pinoy NGA!
by Jess Abrera
Panuluyan
PATULUYIN SANA KAMI GALING KAMI SA MALAYONG LUGAR
SANA DITO SA ATIN ANG PANULUYAN
MAY KAINAN DAW KINA MEYOR
NAY, NANDITO NA SILA!
ABOT MO ANG SOBRE
DITO BA ANG SUNOD?
ALAS DIYES YAN NAG SIMULA
SABAY TAYO HANGGANG SIMBAHAN
NAKA ILANG BAHAY NA?
KAWAWA NAMAN SI MAMA MARY
DUN BA ANG TULOY NILA?
GALING SA AMIN YAN
JAbrera 2001

selves. Here, the arrears have more zeros!

"I also don't know how moneys are moved around in government. I don't know how much that is going to cramp my working style. I have to let it, though, or *baka ma*-audit *ako!*"

Still, Alvina is getting tremendous support from Cojuangco, Ramon del Rosario, Jaime Laya and other members of the Museum's Board of Trustees. Their pledge of support, in fact, was instrumental in helping her decide that the job could be handled. Among her immediate tasks right now are reading up on the National Museum and civil service laws, but, as Alvina says with a smile, "everybody knows I'm not afraid of work."

Alvina grew up with an early recognition of a world of cultures beyond her own. Her mother passed away when Alvina was very young, leaving this only child to be raised by a banker father with an artistic streak "who liked to whittle – and who was great friends with William Beyer, the son of H. Otley Beyer." Thus the Manila-born girl spent many vacations with Beyer's grandchildren and Ifugao kids.

In a valiant tribute to her father, she first enrolled in an economics course at the University of the Philippines (UP). When no economics professor (including the likes of Mahar Mangahas and Tony Gatmaitan) could keep her awake, she took on a chopsuey of subjects, from philosophy to calculus, and found herself hooked on anthropology. "I antedated Indiana Jones!" she exclaims.

She was actually trained in publishing, having produced the milestone "Filipino Heritage" series of books and having worked as production manager for Gilda Cordero-Fernando's GCF Books for 17 years. She joined the Metropolitan Museum of Manila in 1987 as a guest curator and trained further in museology on a British Council grant. On the side she writes for books and is a renowned foodie. When she's not working, Alvina is an enthusiastic gardener who pockets the seeds of exotic fruits, and is proud to have durian, lychees, and (hopefully) cherries growing in her yard.

Alvina's term at the National Museum is open-ended. "The trend abroad is that a director stays only for three years and can only get reelected, so there's always fresh blood. That's better than the old way, when directors considered museums their own little fiefdoms." And how does she plan to protect her turf from the lot of government institutions, which is political meddling? "In the conduct of culture, there are certain moves that will have to be supported by government institutions, but we will keep it at that. In other words I can't be pressured to put up an exhibit because some politician's wife paints *pala!* In fact, when it comes to politics, I'm a little guileless about my actions and comments. My ignorance about how things get done politically makes a good defense. And I plan to keep things that way."

Apprehensions aside, Cora Alvina doesn't see the intricacies of her new job as a burden, but as "a concern – a concern that the National Museum perform its task of preserving our heritage. Even if it will later mean acquiring works or coercing collectors to loan us works, I would like to be able to say candidly that the National Museum can set standards, and that in here, we have the best."

This Week

Art

Ode to Beauty, an exhibit of oil and pastel paintings with Mother and Child themes by Hermes Alegre at Gallerie Denise, Kingswood Arcade, Vito Cruz Ext. cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City until Nov. 30.

Koi's, an exhibit of recent works by Ramon Diaz at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall until Nov. 22.

Wowie de Guzman, Arkin da Silva, Dexter Santos and Paula Ferrer in Gantimpala Theater Foundation's "Ibong Adarna"

The crafts of the farmers of Behia in Tiaong, Quezon and the art of **Sr. Emma Alday** will be on exhibit and sale at the Amrhein Gallery, St. Scholastica's College, Manila until Nov. 19.

The **Gallery Ivydell** presents a group Christmas painting exhibit and art sale until Dec. 31 at the ground level of the Gallery building, Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village (Creekside), Makati City to raise funds for the gallery's free art lessons for less fortunate children.

Baile Foundation and Shangri-La Plaza present various interpretations of the *belen*, the centerpiece of the Filipino holiday decorations, with the exhibit *Belen! Belen!* until Nov. 27 at the Shaw side Level 2 lobby of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall showcasing nativity sets designed by a number of the country's prominent artists, designers and collectors. For inquiries, call 633-7851 loc. 108.

Prolegomenon, a group exhibit by UP artists Carina Altomonte, Erin Asuncion, Billy Atienza, Beth Dimaculangan, Emil Dimar, Dada Docot, Kim Landicho, Lea Lim, Elena Malgapo, Josue Manrobang, Brian Sergio, Jiyas Suministrado, Arvin Viola, Marjorie Yu and Alvin Zafra until Nov. 30 at the White Wall, Odd Manila, Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC.

Scented Landscapes, a solo exhibit by Susan Herrera at Finale Art Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Nov. 25.

The Sounds of Colors by the Filipino Deaf Visual Arts Group features over 60 paintings and photographs by eight multi-awarded deaf artists, Nov. 18-25, UP Church of the Risen Lord, GG Hall, UP campus, Diliman, QC. Call 921-8521 for details.

Vivian N. Limpin holds an exhibit of photographs tracing her photojournalist beginnings in the Philippine Collegian in the '90s to the present at Likha-Diwa sa Gulod, 1 Lt. J. Francisco St., Krus na Ligas, QC, until Nov. 30.

Onstage

Tanghalang Pilipino extends ***Ang Buhay at Trahedya ni Carmen*** with performances set on Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.; Nov. 18, 24, 25, Dec. 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 2:30 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino. For inquiries, call 832-3661.

Wowie de Guzman makes his stage debut in Gantimpala Theater Foundation's production of ***Ibong Adarna*** to be staged on Nov. 18 and 20 at the AFP Theater and moves on to the RFC Theater in Las Piñas on Nov. 23-25, with a final move-over at the JCS Auditorium, Paco Catholic School on Dec. 1 and 2. For details, call 899-5725 and 897-1533.

The De La Salle University Student 55th ENG presents the Filipino version of **The Vagina Monologues** at the Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. Performers include Arlene Borja, Pinky Marquez and Harlene Bautista-Sarmenta. Tickets available at Chess Plaza, Velasco lobby and DLSU-Taft-Student Council office (524-4611 to 26 loc. 734). The English version to be performed by Lara Fabregas, Lynn Shermann and Tammy Monsod goes onstage on Nov. 23, 8 p.m. also at the Philamlife Theater. For tickets, call 256-3055 or 0916-3365980.

Dramatis Personae in cooperation with the Royal Norwegian Embassy present **Peer Gynt,** Henrik Ibsen's poetic fantasy on selfhood and the power of love, on Nov. 18, 24, Dec. 1, 2 and 16 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Pius XII Theater, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue, Manila. For inquiries, call 412-0617.

Dance Forum, with the support of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, presents **The Romeo and Juliet Project** on Nov. 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and on Nov. 25, 6 p.m. at the Studio-theater at 38 West Avenue, Quezon City. The performance will also be presented at the CASA San Miguel, San Antonio, Zambales, on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. Ticket price: P150. For inquiries, email myrabeltran@hotmail.com or call Donna at 0918-5056429.

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation presents **tenor Gary del Rosario** and pianist Regalado Jose in a concert at the Francisco Santiago Hall, PCI Bank Tower II, 8th Flr., Makati Avenue, Makati City on Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. Featured in the concert are well loved arias from Handel, Mozart, Puccini, Gounod and Verdi. For inquiries, call 818-1403.

The Philippine Educational Theater Association brings to the stage **The Maids *ni* Jean Genet,** a Filipino adaptation of Genet's modern classic "Les Bonnes" on Nov. 22-24 at 7 p.m. with 3 p.m. matinees at the Republic of Malate, 1769 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. For details, call 410-0822 and 724-9637.

Atbp

Ham for the Holidays, a short course presented by Gerry Geronimo Productions Inc. at SM Southmall, Las Piñas on Nov. 25 featuring different kinds of chicken and pork ham perfect for the coming holidays. Pre-registration is a must. For inquiries, call 825-7454 and 825-6162.

The book **Tellers of Tales, Singers of Songs,** a collection of 16 essays on female writers in Filipino, 19th century prose works, the Tagalog novel and significant aspects of popular culture authored by Dr. Soledad S. Reyes, will be launched at the Ateneo Art Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University on Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. The DLSU Press and the AdMU School of Humanities will sponsor the book launch.

The UP Education Society will celebrate its 12th anniversary with **Midnight Strikes EDSOC: Unraveling the Unknown** from Nov. 19-23. Activities include a Thanksgiving Mass, exhibit, film showing, community service, symposium and a welcome party for the College of Education. For inquiries, call 682-2502 or 823-7461.

Hands-on Introductory Course on Polyester Resin (figurine making, fiberglass, stained glass, lamination, encapsulation and synthetic granite) will be held on Nov. 21-24. For details, call Polymer Products at 671-9837.

Children's Drama Workshop (Nov. 20 to Dec. 14, TWF, 2-4 p.m.): Children ages 9 to 12 are invited to join a drama workshop at the Museo Pambata to be facilitated by theater arts teacher Lorely Trinidad. The workshop's culminating activity will be a Christmas presentation. Limited to 20 slots only. For inquiries, please call 523-1797 to 98 or email prprog@museopambata.org.

Anvil Publishing Inc. recently released a book of poems and paintings, elegies, essays and letters called **Beauty for Ashes: Remembering Maningning,** a compilation of "deep meditations" and "poetic outpourings of grief and affection" for Maningning Miclat by 34 notable and promising visual and literary artists. Compiled and edited by Mario Ignacio Miclat and Romulo Baquiran Jr., the book is available in a Collector's edition, whose sales will fund the projects of the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation to support young artists and poets 28 years old and below. For inquiries, call Alma Miclat at 816-7490 or email acmiclat@dcdc.com.ph. Softbound copies are now available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks outlets.

Bluehearts Inc. will hold the following **Cultural and Historical Encounter/Tours and Trainings:** Mt. Banahaw Historical Encounter/Climb—for experienced climber only (Nov.30-Dec. 2); Sagada-Banaue Cultural and Adventure Tour—Caving, Waterfalls, Majestic Terraces, Hanging Coffins, Underground River, Hiking, etc. (Dec. 26-30); Backpacking Course (Jan.-April 2002); Weekend Camping Trips. For inquiries, call or text Jules (0918-9432308), Eric (0919-8529413), Borj (0919-3194393).

***Mag*-ROCK *Tayo*! (Rights of the Child Kontest) School Level Competition** (Until Dec. 14) Grade 5 students and their HEKASI (Heograpiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika) teachers in the Manila City Schools take part in Museo Pambata's campaign to promote children's rights as they hold the school round of Mag-ROCK Tayo!, a quiz bee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Watch out for the inter-school and championship rounds. For inquiries, please call 5231797 to 98 or email prprog@museopambata.org.

Adarna House will host a **toy-making workshop** at Powerbooks Megamall and Alabang Town Center on Nov. 18 and 24 respectively, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The workshop will discuss how parents and adults can find ways where love for reading can be nurtured after which a toy-making workshop will be facilitated using simple steps and easy-to-find materials. Admission fee is P50. For details, call 410-5200.

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards is hosting a series of public hearing on **Standards for the Ornamentals Industry** on Nov. 27 at Davao City and Dec. 12 at the National Seed Quality Control Service, BPI Compound, QC. The series will cover live potted, standards and spray chrysanthemum, orchids and carnation. For details, call 920-6131 to 33.

Barakalan 2001, a Christmas fair showcasing the best of Southern Tagalog products at the MegaTrade Hall I, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong until Nov. 19. On sale are gifts and toys, handicrafts, home decors, footwear and furniture.

X-manila

The St. Anne Academy Alumni Association of Piddig, Ilocos Norte will hold a grand homecoming on Nov. 30, 8 a.m. at the St. Anne Academy campus. This year's theme is *Balik Tanaw sa* **SAA 2001**. All graduates are invited to attend. For details, call Father Gus Acob at 0919-6174578; Yolanda Duldulao at 0919-8418175; Vera Anne Cortes at 876-3102.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.